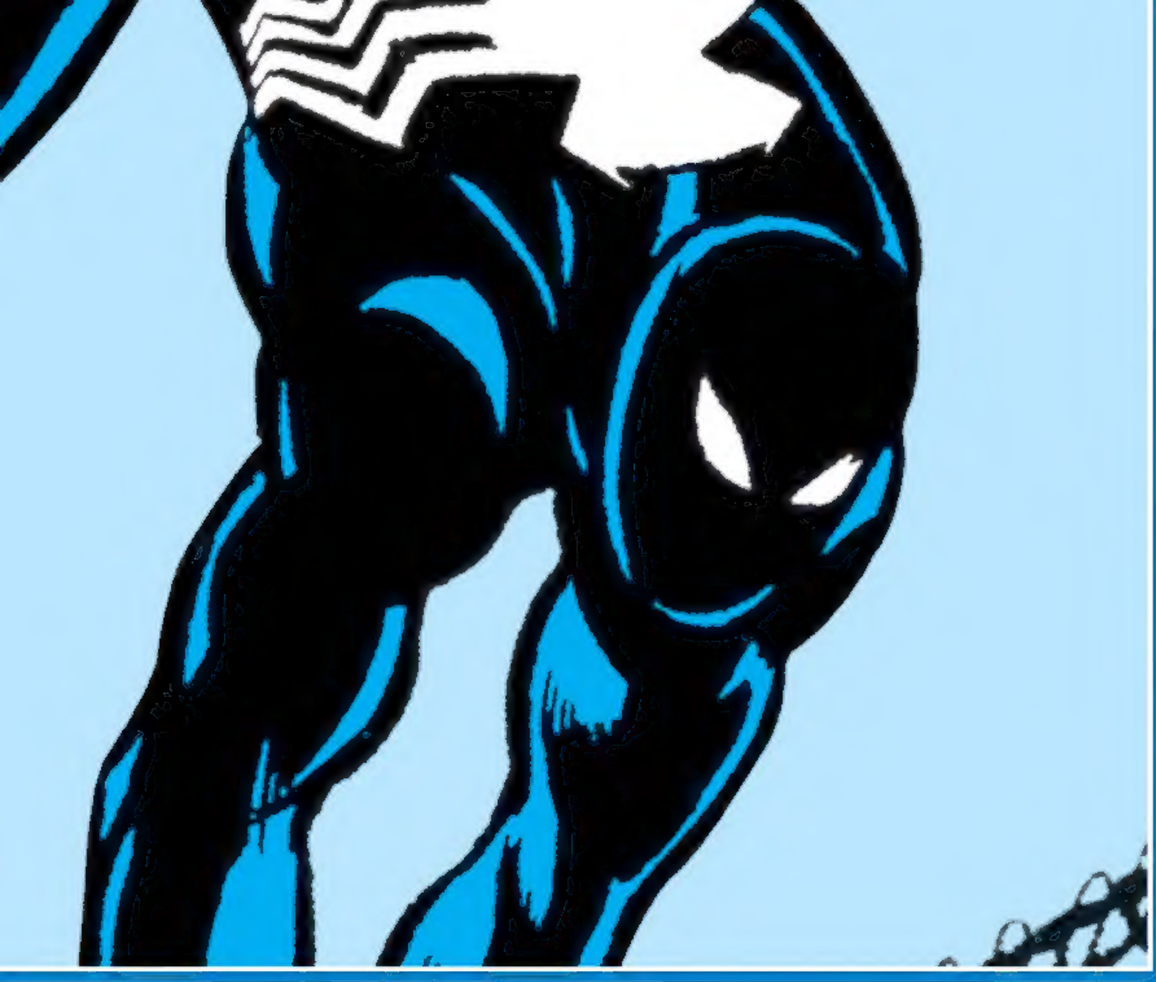
MARVEL

SPIDER-MAN®

VS.

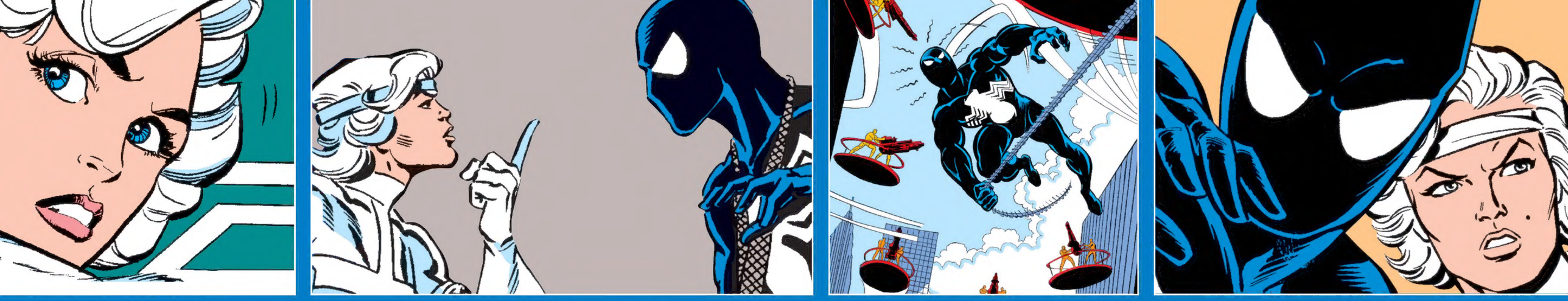
SILVER SABLE™



SPIDER-MAN

VS.

SILVER SABLE



SPIDER-MAN VS. SILVER SABLE

Writers: Tom DeFalco & Peter David
Pencils: Ron Frenz, Rick Leonardi, Brett Breeding & Alan Kupperberg
Inks: Josef Rubinstein, Vince Colletta, Brett Breeding & Alan Kupperberg
Colors: Bob Sharen, Paul J. Becton, Nelson Yomtov & Juliana Ferriter
Letters: Phil Felix, Joe Rosen & Rick Parker
Editors: Jim Owsley & Jim Salicrup
Cover Art: Todd McFarlane
Cover Colors: Tom Smith
Color Reconstruction: Jerron Quality Color

Senior Editor, Special Projects: Jeff Youngquist
Assistant Editors: Jennifer Grünwald & Michael Short
Director of Sales: David Gabriel
Production: Jerron Quality Color
Book Designer: Jhonson Eteng
Creative Director: Tom Marvelli
Digital Manager/Produciton: Tim Smith 3
Digital Production: Kou Chen
Editor in Chief: Joe Quesada
Publisher: Dan Buckley

© 2017 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

MARVEL®

© 1985 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TM

65¢
265
JUNE
02457

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

THE FOX IS BACK...

...AND SPIDEY'S GOTTA SAVE HIM!

FRANK RUBINSTEIN

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

SPIDER-MAN

AFTER THE FOX!

BEAUTIFUL, MY FRIEND! SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL! YOUR TASTE IS AS EXQUISITE AS EVER!

WHEREVER DID YOU *STEAL* IT?

TOM DeFALCO —— WRITER
RON FRENZ —— PENCILER
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN - FINISHER
PHIL FELIX —— LETTERER
BOB SHAREN —— COLORIST
JIM OWSLEY —— EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER - ED.-IN-CHIEF

TRUST ME, ANDRÉ! YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW!

DO YOU THINK YOU'LL HAVE ANY TROUBLE MOVING THAT MERCHANDISE FOR ME?

NOT AT ALL! QUALITY PIECES LIKE THESE ARE ALWAYS IN HIGH DEMAND.

I MUST NOW ASK YOU A RATHER PERSONAL QUESTION, MY FRIEND.

IS IT TRUE THAT THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE SHALL DO BUSINESS TOGETHER?

I'M AFRAID SO, ANDRÉ. AFTER TONIGHT, THE *BLACK FOX* IS NO MORE!

I INTEND TO USE THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS SALE TO FINANCE MY RETIREMENT!

THEN, A TOAST IS IN ORDER!

I SHALL MISS YOU, MONSIEUR FOX.

PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS YOURSELF ARE RARE IN OUR BUSINESS! THE YOUNG THIEVES TODAY KNOW NOTHING OF STYLE AND CLASS!

IT'S A *NEW* WORLD, ANDRÉ!

BUT NOT A *BETTER* ONE, EH?

BWAM! BWAM!

OPEN UP! THIS IS THE POLICE!

ANDRÉ BOULLION, WE HAVE A WARRANT FOR YOUR *ARREST!*

THE *JEWELS!* CAN'T LEAVE THEM BEHIND NOW!

HURRY, MY FRIEND! THE AUTHORITIES MUST NOT FIND YOU HERE!

WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

MY LAWYER WILL SEE TO MY NEEDS!

KRACK!

RUN! I CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK ANY LONGER!

GET OUT OF OUR WAY, MR. BOULLION!

FAREWELL, ANDRÉ! A PITY WE COULDN'T HAVE PARTED UNDER MORE FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES!

PWAP!

THAT SMOKE GRENADE SHOULD COVER MY ESCAPE!

GOT TO SLIP MY COAT DOWN, SO THAT I CAN EASILY REACH MY WEAPONS PACK!

THERE'S AN AWNING DIRECTLY BENEATH ME! I ONLY HOPE IT CAN TAKE MY WEIGHT!

BWAAGG

MANAGED TO HIT IT JUST RIGHT!

=UGH= MY ANKLE! FEELS LIKE I SPRAINED IT!

I'M GETTING *TOO OLD* FOR THIS KIND OF THING!

LOOKS LIKE THE LOCALS BLEW IT. THE FOX IS GETTING AWAY!

WHAT ELSE DID YOU EXPECT?

CALLING *MOBILE ONE--!*

QUARRY IS PROCEEDING EAST ON 86TH STREET...

WE SEE HIM, WATCH-DOG!

SOMETHING TELLS ME I'D BETTER GET OFF THE STREETS! **FAST!**

HIT THE BRAKES! **HURRY!** HE'S TURNING DOWN THAT ALLEY--

SCREECH!

BWAK!

WHA?! MY CAR--!

WHAT'S WITH YOU MANIACS? THIS IS A NEW YORK CITY STREET ... NOT THE INDIANAPOLIS SPEEDWAY!

HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHO'S GONNA PAY FOR MY ...

...CAR?!

SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE FULLY COMPENSATED FOR ANY DAMAGE TO YOUR VEHICLE, SIR.

NOW, THEN, I'LL NEED THE CORRECT SPELLING FOR YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND INSURANCE COMPANY.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS? WHY ARE THEY AFTER ME?!

OH, **NO!** THEY'RE DRAWING GUNS!

TAKE HIM DOWN, MEN! DON'T LET HIM GET OVER THAT FENCE!

I'M GLAD WE'RE ARMED WITH MERCY BULLETS! OUR ORDERS ARE ONLY TO CAPTURE THE FOX ... NOT KILL HIM.

BWAM!

BWAM!

BWAM!

YEOW! THESE GUYS ARE CRAZY!

THAT SETTLES IT! I'M DEFINITELY GETTING OUT OF THIS BUSINESS!

MEANWHILE, AT COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL...

WE'RE NAMING HIM *NORMAN HARRY OSBORN*... AND HE'S SIMPLY GORGEOUS!

ADMIT IT, PARKER! MY SON IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BABY YOU'VE EVER SEEN!

I NEVER ARGUE WITH A PROUD PARENT, HARRY!

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MY HUSBAND, PETER. THE DOCTORS TELL ME HE'S GOT THE WORST CASE OF *NEW DADDY SYNDROME* EVER RECORDED!

WANT TO HOLD HIM?

I'LL PASS. I PREFER VIEWING BABIES FROM A DISTANCE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, PETEY, AFRAID HE'LL BREAK? JUST TOSS HIM IN MY DIRECTION, AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW STURDY HE IS!

I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT BROWN-EYED LITTLE HUNK!

HE'S ALL YOURS, MARY-JANE!

OOH! WHAT A CUTEY! THIS ONE'S GOING TO BE SOME HEART-BREAKER WHEN HE GROWS UP!

I NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU AS THE BABY TYPE BEFORE NOW, MARY JANE.

JUST LIKE HIS FATHER!

ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M CRAZY ABOUT THESE LITTLE RUG RATS... JUST SO LONG AS THEY BELONG TO SOMEONE ELSE!

I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER. I'VE GOT TO HIT THE *DAILY BUGLE*, AND TRY TO RUSTLE UP A FEW FREE-LANCE PHOTO ASSIGN-MENTS.

THANKS FOR STOP-PING BY, PETE!

TAKE IT SLOW, TIGER... BUT NOT *TOO* SLOW!

I'M REAL HAPPY FOR HARRY AND LIZ, BUT ALL OF THAT FAMILY JAZZ WAS STARTING TO GET TO ME... ESPECIALLY WITH MARY JANE STANDING THERE.

I USED TO LOVE THAT GIRL... BUT I GUESS I HAVEN'T FELT COMFORTABLE AROUND HER SINCE I LEARNED THAT SHE KNEW I WAS SECRETLY *SPIDER-MAN!*

4

WHY'D SHE HAVE TO GO AND CALL ME "TIGER"? IT BRINGS BACK SO MANY MEMORIES...

...BUT I ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH ON MY MIND WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT MARY JANE. MY *AUNT MAY* IS STILL ANGRY WITH ME FOR DROPPING OUT OF GRADUATE SCHOOL...

...AND MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE *BLACK CAT* JUST WENT COMPLETELY SOUR!*

*SEE *SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #100* FOR DETAILS-- OWZ.

A LITTLE WEB-SWINGING SHOULD HELP RAISE MY SPIRITS. AS SOON AS I GET OUTSIDE, I'LL SWITCH INTO MY COSTUME, AND...

HEY, AN EMPTY ELEVATOR!

THIS IS TOO GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PASS UP!

STILL, I DON'T WANT IT STOPPING ON ANOTHER FLOOR WHILE I'M IN MID-CHANGE--

--SO I'LL DO MY COSTUME BIT UP HERE!

MOMENTS LATER...

I WISH THIS ELEVATOR WOULD HURRY UP, LORI!

RELAX, RON! WE FLEW ALL THE WAY FROM PITTSBURGH TO SEE HARRY AND LIZ'S BABY. A FEW SECONDS MORE WON'T...

...MATTER?!

WH- WHO ARE YOU?

I'M YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-*STORK!*

BY THE WAY, THE OSBORNS ARE ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR. *TA-TA!*

HEH! HEH! I CAN BE SUCH A DEVIL AT TIMES!

I JUST HOPE I CAN SCORE SOME WORK FROM THE *DAILY BUGLE* TODAY. IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I SHOT ANY CRIME PIX FOR THEM, AND MY BANK ACCOUNT COULD USE A MONEY TRANSFUSION.

WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

THAT VAN SEEMS TO BE IN AN AWFUL HURRY!

AND, I DO BELIEVE I HEAR THE SOUND OF GUNSHOTS IN THE DISTANCE!

SCREECH

YEP, THOSE BOYS ARE SHOWING A RATHER BLATENT DISREGARD FOR THE CITY'S GUN CONTROL LAWS... NOT TO MENTION A FEW NOISE ORDINANCES, TOO!

BWAM!

KEEP FIRING, MEN! WE'VE GOT HIM CORNERED NOW!

BWAM!

STOP! *NO MORE!* I SURRENDER!

PLEASE DON'T HURT ME! I'M BEGGING YOU--!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE, BUT I DON'T LIKE WHAT I SEE!

NOT ONE BIT!

ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN, YOUR PLAY PERIOD IS OVER!

IT'S TIME TO PUT ALL YOUR NOISE-MAKERS AWAY BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT... NAMELY, *YOU!*

FWOK!

EEYAGG!

STOP THAT COSTUMED FOOL! WE CAN'T LET HIM INTERFERE WITH OUR MISSION!

I'VE GOT HIM!

DON'T KID YOURSELF, FELLA! I LET YOU GRAB ME! I FIGURED YOUR PLAYMATES WOULD HAVE TO STOP SHOOTING IF I DID! LUCKY FOR YOU YOU'RE WELL-LIKED!

THWOK!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE *HAPPY* TO SEE *SPIDER-MAN!* I ONLY HOPE HE CAN KEEP THOSE GOONS DISTRACTED--

--UNTIL I CAN MAKE GOOD MY ESCAPE!

HM! ALL OF THE GUNMEN SEEM TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR! NOW, WHERE DID THEIR PLAYMATES RUN OFF TO--?

UH-OH! LOOK WHO'S HERE--!

YOU MISERABLE WEB-HEADED @#★*!?! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I WARNED YOU ABOUT STICKING YOUR NOSE INTO POLICE BUSINESS?! I OUGHTA RUN YOU IN ON THIS ONE!

GET OFF MY BACK, *LT. KEATING!* I JUST STOPPED THESE MANIACS FROM SHOOTING UP THE STREETS!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THESE "MANIACS" HAPPEN TO BE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE *SYMKARIAN GOVERNMENT*--WHO WERE ASSISTING THE LOCAL PRECINCT IN APPREHENDING AN INTERNATIONAL JEWEL THIEF!

WHA-A-A-AT?!

FACE IT, SPIDER-MAN! YOU BLEW IT--*BAD!*

LATER, AFTER A STERN LECTURE...

THIS SPIDER-MAN PERSON COULD BECOME EXTREMELY TROUBLESOME IN THE FUTURE.

WE'D BETTER CONTACT *SILVER SABLE* IMMEDIATELY!

SHE ISN'T GOING TO BE PLEASED WITH THE WAY THINGS TURNED OUT TODAY!

THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY, LOCATED ON EAST 53RD STREET...

SILVER, I'M AFRAID THE AMBASSADOR HAS JUST INFORMED ME OF SOME RATHER DISTRESSING NEWS...

...HE'S JUST BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND IT SEEMS THAT OUR OPERATIVES HAVE FAILED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THE BLACK FOX.

THEIR EFFORTS WERE FRUSTRATED BY A COSTUMED ADVENTURER WHO GOES BY THE NAME OF SPIDER-MAN!

I KNOW, UNCLE MORTY. I'VE ALREADY RECEIVED A REPORT FROM MY AGENTS ON THE SCENE.

YOU DON'T SEEM VERY UPSET ABOUT THIS SETBACK.

I'M NOT.

MY CLIENT, A MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANY, HAS OFFERED ME $200,000 FOR THE APPREHENSION OF THE FOX.

WITH AN EXPENSE BUDGET OF $10,000 A DAY -- PLUS AN ADDITIONAL $50,000 THROWN IN TO PAY FOR ANY DAMAGE TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY -- I CAN EASILY RUN THIS OPERATION FOR A FULL FIFTEEN DAYS, AND STILL MAKE A HANDSOME PROFIT!

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, IT'S TIME I BEGAN MY DAILY WORKOUT!

THE WILD PACK WASN'T FORMED TO MAKE PROFITS!

WHHOOOM

I KNOW THAT, UNCLE MORTY...!

KTAK!

MY FATHER FOUNDED THE PACK, WITH THE AID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYMKARIA, TO HUNT DOWN NAZI WAR CRIMINALS!

THUMP!

BUT I BELIEVE IN CHANGING WITH THE TIMES! UNDER MY LEADERSHIP, THE PACK WILL HUNT ANYONE... FOR A PRICE!

I CAN HEAR THEM ENGAGING THEIR WEAPONS BEHIND ME!

HAVE TO MOVE FAST--!

KCHK

KCHK

OH, NO! I ACCIDENTALLY HIT THIS MAN TOO HARD! SOUNDS LIKE I SHATTERED HIS KNEE-CAP!

WHHT!

ARRGH!

CRAK

THERE GOES MY MEDICAL INSURANCE RATES AGAIN!

I'D BETTER USE A *CHAI* TO DISARM THE OTHERS BEFORE ANYONE GETS HURT!

WHSSSSSSSS

WHAT THE--?

KTING!

HEY--!

KTANG!

A WARM TOWEL, MISS SABLE?

THANK YOU, MADELINE.

COULD YOU PLEASE RING OUR STAFF DOCTOR? I'M AFRAID I'VE INJURED ONE OF THE MEN QUITE SERIOUSLY.

THK

THERE! THAT SHOULD BRING THIS EXERCISE TO A MOST DEFINITE CONCLUSION!

=UNN=

NOW, THEN, UNCLE MORTY, ABOUT THIS SPIDER-MAN FELLOW... I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM.

SILVER SABLE MUST DIE!

I FEAR YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT. SILVER SABLE MUST DIE... EVENTUALLY!

HOWEVER, I DON'T INTEND TO DIE TODAY... AND CERTAINLY NOT BY *YOUR* HAND!

FVOP!

UGNN

SHE... ISN'T ONE OF OUR REGULAR PEOPLE!

HOOM!

I BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT, UNCLE! SHE'S PROBABLY AN ASSASSIN SENT BY OUR OLD ENEMY.

HAVE HER INTERRO-GATED!

YOU... COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

I'LL BE IN THE JACUZZI IF I'M NEEDED FURTHER.

FOREST HILLS, QUEENS...

MAY--!

MAY, WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M UP HERE, NATHAN.

IS ANYTHING WRONG?

NO, BUT YOU DO SEEM TO BE SPENDING AN AWFUL LOT OF YOUR TIME UP IN THE ATTIC LATELY.

I'VE... BEEN GOING THROUGH SOME OLD PHOTO ALBUMS.

YEAH, AND I CAN GUESS WHO'S THE FEATURED ATTRACTION OF THOSE PHOTOS.

NATHAN, PLEASE.

LOOK, MAY, I REALIZE IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS--BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU ENDED THIS SILLY FEUD WITH YOUR NEPHEW?

YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN A WORD TO PETER SINCE THAT DAY HE TOLD YOU HE HAD DROPPED OUT OF GRADUATE SCHOOL! *

YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?

*SEE AMAZING #252 -- OWZ.

PETER ALWAYS DREAMED OF A CAREER IN SCIENCE! IT WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO FINISH HIS EDUCATION, AND ACCOMPLISH THAT DREAM!

HE SHOULDN'T HAVE QUIT ON HIMSELF!

BUT, IT'S PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO QUIT ON HIM...

WHAT--?!

DON'T YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE, MAY?

PETER MAY HAVE GIVEN UP ON HIS DREAM, BUT YOU GAVE UP ON HIM!

YOU'VE COMPLETELY SHUT HIM OUT OF YOUR LIFE... AT A TIME WHEN HE MAY NEED YOU THE MOST!

CALL HIM, MAY. MAKE YOUR PEACE WITH PETER.

MOMENTS LATER...

BRRT-KLIK BRRT-KLIK BRRT-KLIK

I'LL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN LATER. I'VE DIALED HIM THREE TIMES, AND HIS LINE IS STILL...

...BUSY!

IT'S JUST AS WELL. AUNT MAY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE HUNG UP ON ME ANYWAY.

IF I REALLY WANT TO PATCH THINGS UP BETWEEN US I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO CONFRONT HER IN PERSON.

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO DROP IN ON HER FOR WEEKS, BUT I CAN NEVER SEEM TO FIND THE TIME.

SOMETHING MORE URGENT ALWAYS SEEMS TO GET IN THE WAY...

...LIKE THAT THIEF THIS MORNING!

HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE BECAUSE OF ME! HE'S THE ***BLACK FOX!*** I REMEMBER MEETING HIM ONCE BEFORE! *

IT'S NOW MY RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT HE'S RECAPTURED!

* IN ISSUE #256 -- OWZ.

=WHEW= BUT I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO GO OUT AFTER HIM IN THIS SWEATY, OLD THING!

IT'S ALMOST TOO RIPE FOR WORDS!

I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT CLIMBING BACK INTO IT ***BEFORE*** I TOOK MY AFTERNOON SHOWER!

OH, WELL, I CAN'T LET AN INTERNATIONAL JEWEL THIEF RUN LOOSE JUST BECAUSE MY DEODORANT FAILED ME.

I'LL JUST HAVE TO WEAR THAT NEW COSTUME THE BLACK CAT SEWED FOR ME! *

* IN SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #99 -- OWZ.

AND SO, SOMETIME LATER...

I WISH I KNEW WHAT TO DO ABOUT MY COSTUME SITUATION.

I REALLY LIKE THE WAY THIS BLACK ONE LOOKS ON ME... EVEN THOUGH IT'S AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE I PICKED UP ON THE BEYONDER'S PLANET! *

BUT, I STILL HAVE AN ATTACHMENT TO MY OLD RED AND BLUE ONE...

* SEE **THE SECRET WARS** LIMITED SERIES FOR DETAILS -- OWZ.

I DON'T THINK THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL ACCEPT THE IDEA OF A MASKED ADVENTURER WITH TWO DISTINCT UNION SUITS.

THEN AGAIN, THEY DON'T ACCEPT ME *ANYWAY*.

I WONDER HOW IT WOULD WORK IF I ONLY WORE MY BLACK COSTUME AT NIGHT, AND SAVED MY RED AND BLUE ONE FOR DAYTIME USE?

NAH! THAT IDEA'S TOO DUMB EVEN FOR ME!

UH-OH! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS WARNING ME OF DANGER... FROM ABOVE!

THAT HELICOPTER--! IT SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING ME!

THIS COULD PROVE TO BE A LOT MORE INTERESTING THAN HUNTING FOR THE FOX!

THWIP!

I HOPE THE PILOT'S PREPARED FOR A WILD GAME OF ***FOLLOW-THE-SPIDER!***

DID YOU SEE THE WAY HE DUCKED BETWEEN THOSE BUILDINGS? ***AMAZING!*** I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE COULD MOVE THAT FAST!

ARE YOU SURE HE'S THE SAME SPIDER-PERSON ***SILVER*** WANTED US TO OBSERVE?

HIS COSTUME DOESN'T SEEM TO MATCH THE DESCRIPTION WE WERE GIVEN!

HE'S GOT TO BE THE RIGHT ONE! WHO ELSE WOULD BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO GO TRAVELING ACROSS THE CITY ON A WEB-LINE?

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE...

I'M DISAPPOINTED THAT I COULDN'T CONVERT THE JEWELS INTO CURRENCY BEFORE LEAVING THIS COUNTRY.

I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO SETTLE FOR A MUCH LOWER RATE OF EXCHANGE ABROAD.

I JUST HOPE NOTHING'S GONE WRONG WITH MY ESCAPE PLANS.

BAR

MINUTES LATER...

EVERYTHING'S BEEN ARRANGED ACCORDING TO YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. THE FREIGHTER WILL PICK YOU UP AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT IN ONE HOUR.

LOOKS LIKE SILVER'S INFORMATION WAS CORRECT. THE FOX HAS BEEN USING THIS PLACE AS A CONTACT POINT.

I'D BETTER ALERT THE REST OF THE PACK!

KLIK!

ATTENTION, ALL UNITS! THE FOX HAS BEEN SIGHTED! PLEASE HOME-IN ON MY SIGNAL!

SOMERSAULTING BACKWARDS, SPIDER-MAN BEGINS WEB-SWINGING AFTER THE RETREATING HELICOPTER...

HEY! THEY'RE LEAVING!

I WONDER WHY?

MAYBE IT'S TIME I STARTED FOLLOWING THEM!

AND THEN...

NO SENSE TIRING MYSELF OUT!

BEOING!

I'M SURE THEY WON'T MIND IF I HITCH A RIDE!

ACTING LIKE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL SUCTION-CUPS, SPIDER-MAN'S FINGERTIPS ADHERE TO THE HELICOPTER'S UNDERBELLY...

YEOW! WHAT CAUSED US TO DIP LIKE THAT?

I'M NOT SURE. WE MUST HAVE HIT A BAD DOWNDRAFT ...OR SOMETHING!

SOON...

WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

LOOKS LIKE A PARTY...

...AND IT'S BEING THROWN BY THE SAME TRIGGER-HAPPY GOONS WHO WERE CHASING THE FOX THIS MORNING!

SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT FOXIE-LOXIE WILL BE A WHOLE LOT HAPPIER, IF I'M THE FIRST ONE TO FIND HIM!

MAM'SELLE SABLE, THE FOX IS MINUTES AWAY FROM CAPTURE!

EXCELLENT! I WANT TO BE PRESENT WHEN WE TURN HIM OVER TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES!

PLEASE RING FOR MY ROLLS, UNCLE MORTY.

NO ONE'S IN SIGHT! GOOD!

IT PROBABLY WASN'T NECESSARY FOR ME TO STRIP OFF MY TRENCHCOAT, BUT I WANTED TO BE IN MY JUMPSUIT IN CASE I HAD TO MOVE QUICKLY.

HI THERE! CAN YOU TELL ME THE NAME OF AN INTERNATIONALLY KNOW JEWEL THIEF WHO JUST RAN OUT OF LUCK?!

WHA--?!

C'MON, FOX! NOT THOSE STUPID *SMOKE GRENADES* AGAIN!

YOU OUGHT TO REALIZE THEY WON'T STOP ME!

KEEP BACK! DON'T TOUCH ME!

=SHEESH= TRY TO HELP SOME PEOPLE!

SLOW DOWN, GUY! YOU'RE HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF BIG...

"...TROUBLE!"

LOOK! THAT'S HIM!

OH, NO!

TAKE HIM DOWN, MEN! HURRY--!

SILVER WILL BE FURIOUS IF HE MANAGES TO ESCAPE US AGAIN!

BWAM! BWAM! BWAM!

STOP! PLEASE--!

I GIVE UP!

UNNN

THIS IS SICK!

THEY'RE USING SOME KIND OF MERCY BULLETS, BUT THE FOX IS TAKING AN AWFUL BATTERING!

ENOUGH!

HAVEN'T YOU CLOWNS EVER HEARD OF COMPASSION?

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE GUY A BREAK?

THWIPP

UH-OH! THERE'S MORE OF THEM!

HEADS UP, FOXY! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

ARE YOU THE SAME SPIDER-MAN I SAW THIS MORNING?

OF COURSE I AM! YOU SHOULDN'T LET A LITTLE THING LIKE A DIFFERENT COSTUME CONFUSE YOU!

WH-WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

TO SAFETY FOR NOW... BUT DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP!

YOU'LL PROBABLY BE SEEING YOUR NEXT SUN-RISE THROUGH THE BARS OF A JAIL CELL!

WHY ARE WE STOPPING HERE?

I HAD TO GET MY BEARINGS! I'M NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, ANYWAY?

I WAS ON MY WAY TO A LAUNCH... WHICH WOULD HAVE TAKEN ME TO A FREIGHTER BOUND FOR EUROPE!

SKIPPING THE COUNTRY, EH?

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD EVER BE REUNITED WITH MY FAMILY.

YOU HAVE A FAMILY?!

THAT SURPRISES YOU?

I HAVE A MOST BEAUTIFUL WIFE... AND FOUR LOVELY CHILDREN... BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN YEARS.

MY "WORK" HAS KEPT US APART.

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO RETIRE... TO GO BACK TO THEM... BUT ONE MORE JOB ALWAYS CAME UP... AND THEN, ANOTHER... AND, ANOTHER...

I NEVER EVEN NOTICED THE YEARS SLIPPING AWAY FROM ME!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO MAKE THINGS UP TO MY FAMILY.

I WAS WRONG. I GUESS I JUST WAITED TOO LONG...

NO! IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!

I'M MUCH TOO OLD TO SURVIVE ANOTHER PRISON TERM SPIDER-MAN!

YOU WON'T HAVE TO...IF I CAN HELP IT!

UH-OH! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS STARTING TO TINGLE AGAIN!

ATTENTION, YOU ON THE ROOF! WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

RAISE YOUR HANDS AND SURRENDER PEACEFULLY!

OH, ALL RIGHT, IF YOU INSIST...

SPWAT!

THWIPP!

WHOOPS! THAT WASN'T MY HAND, NOW, WAS IT?

YOU... KNOCKED OUT THEIR SPOT-LIGHT!

JUST CALL ME MR. CLUMSY!

MOMENTS LATER...

KWOOSH

WHAT WAS THAT?

WE'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT!

HEH! HEH!

THWIPP THWIPP

HANG ON TIGHT, FOX! MY WEB-BALLS ARE PROVIDING THE DISTRACTION WE NEEDED!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HELPED ME!

LET'S JUST SAY I HAVE A SOFT SPOT IN MY HEAD FOR MEN WITH FAMILY PROBLEMS!

BY THE WAY, WHERE DOES YOUR FAMILY LIVE?

VROOM!

ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA! *FAREWELL MY FRIEND!*

THE FOX--!

WE CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

BLAST HIM OUT OF THE WATER!

SPIDER-MAN!

THAT WOULDN'T BE VERY SPORTING OF YOU, WOULD IT?

NOT BAD! YOU WEREN'T THE LEAST BIT FAZED BY MY BLACK COSTUME!

I'LL BET YOU'RE A WIZ AT ALL THE NEW TRIVIA GAMES, TOO!

I'LL JUST KEEP THESE JOKERS BUSY UNTIL... OH, *NO!* ANOTHER BOAT!

I REALLY HATE TO BRING THIS EXERCISE CLASS TO AN EARLY CLOSE, BUT--

THWIP

--IT'S WEB-SWINGING TIME!

DUCK!

YEOW!

KA-VWAK!

UNNN!

HA-HA! NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!

I'LL SOON BE ENJOYING A PROPER RETIREMENT ON THE CONTINENT, SUBSIDIZED BY A FORTUNE IN...

PAT! PAT!

...JEWELS!?! THEY'RE... GONE!

WAIT! WHAT'S THIS--?!

@#!?☆*!!

COMPLIMENTS OF YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN

I WONDER IF I DID THE RIGHT THING BY GIVING HIM A SECOND CHANCE. I HOPE SO... FOR BOTH OUR SAKES!

CONGRATULATIONS, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'VE BROKEN QUITE A FEW LAWS TO-NIGHT--

--AND COST MY COMPANY, ***SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL***, A SIZEABLE FEE! I'M NOT VERY PLEASED WITH YOU!

THAT'S A REAL SHAME! YOU ***COULD*** TRY TO SUE ME--BUT THEN, I WOULDN'T BE INCLINED TO LET YOU CLAIM THE REWARD FOR RECOVERING THESE JEWELS...

...WHICH I SLIPPED OFF THE FOX!

HMM! A REWARD WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY COVER MOST OF MY EXPENSES.

ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN. WE'RE EVEN... FOR NOW!

GOOD! NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOT TO ATTEND TO SOME RATHER PERSONAL BUSINESS!

WHAT A THOROUGHLY INTRIGUING MAN! I MUST LEARN MORE ABOUT HIM!

SOMETIME LATER...

BRRRR-INGG

I'LL ANSWER THE FRONT DOOR, MAY!

HUMPH! YOU'D DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF HELPING WITH THE TABLE CLEAN UP!

HI, NATHAN! IS MY AUNT HOME?

I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE HER!

KRASH!

OH, MY!

GOODNESS! JUST LOOK AT THE MESS I'VE MADE!

COULD YOU USE SOME HELP, PRETTY LADY?

HELLO, AUNT MAY.

I'VE MISSED YOU.

PETER, I... I...

I'VE MISSED YOU, TOO.

END

MARVEL® 25TH ANNIVERSARY

TM

©1986 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

75¢
279
AUG
02457

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

"MISSING IN ACTION" CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE!

WHERE IS SPIDER-MAN?

FACE OFF BETWEEN THE JACK O'LANTERN™ AND SILVER SABLE!™

ACTION! INTRIGUE! SUSPENSE!

FACE IT, TRUE BELIEVER... THIS ONE'S GOT IT ALL...

...EXCEPT THE GUY WITH THE WEBS

SPIDER-MAN

"SAVAGE IS THE SABLE!"

SAFETY FIRST!

HOLY--!! I KNEW THE *WILD PACK* WAS IN BIG TROUBLE WHEN WE RECEIVED THEIR DISTRESS CALL, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ANYTHING LIKE *THIS!*

STOP GAWKING, AND GET THAT MEDICAL TEAM IN HERE! *NOW!!* YOU'RE WASTING VALUABLE TIME!

DOESN'T THIS WOMAN FEEL ANYTHING?!

HER ENTIRE COMBAT UNIT WAS TRASHED, AND *SILVER SABLE* IS AS COOL AND ALOOF AS IF SHE WERE ATTENDING A CONCERT IN THE PARK!

A DECIDEDLY OFFBEAT SPIDER-TALE IN THE MERRY MARVEL TRADITION!

WRITTEN BY
TOM DeFALCO
PENCILED BY
RICK LEONARDI
INKED BY
VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERED BY
JOE ROSEN
COLORED BY
BOB SHAREN
EDITED BY
JIM OWSLEY
OVERSEEN BY
JIM SHOOTER

SO MANY CASUALTIES!

THIS IS BOUND TO RAISE MY MEDICAL INSURANCE RATES!

HOW BAD IS IT, JACKSON?

COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE.

WE HAVE A FEW PEOPLE IN CRITICAL CONDITION, BUT THANKFULLY, NO FATALITIES!

THAT'S A RELIEF!

I NEVER REALIZED THAT SABLE CARED SO MUCH FOR HER MEN!

DON'T KID YOURSELF, PAL!

SHE WAS JUST AFRAID SHE'D HAVE TO PAY OUT A FEW DEATH BENEFITS!

SOMETIME LATER, AT THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY ON EAST 53RD STREET...

SHE FILLED AN ENTIRE FLOOR OF THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER?!

HAS SILVER GONE CRAZY?

WHERE IS MY NIECE?

SHE'S IN THE TRAINING ROOM, SIR.

MISS SABLE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS THAT SHE WASN'T TO BE DISTURBED DURING HER DAILY WORKOUT.

÷HHUMFF÷ NEED I TELL YOU WHERE TO STUFF YOUR INSTRUCTIONS?

SILVER, I JUST LEARNED THAT THE ENTIRE *WILD PACK* HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED!

WHAT HAPPENED?!

A BIT OF BAD LUCK, UNCLE MORTY!

AS YOU KNOW, *SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL* HAS BEEN ENGAGED TO APPREHEND A CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL TERRORIST.

<INCREDIBLE! SHE DODGED ITO'S LUNGE!>*

<BE CAUTIOUS! YOU'RE NEXT--!>

OUR MEN FINALLY MANAGED TO LOCATE HIM THIS MORNING...

...MUCH TO THEIR OWN REGRET!

*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE--OWZ

<AN EXCELLENT MANEUVER, MISS SABLE! NOT ONLY DID YOU AVOID A SECOND LUNGE, BUT YOU'VE MANAGED TO USE HIS BODY TO HELP FOUL YOUR FIRST OPPONENT!>

<UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'VE LEFT YOURSELF OPEN TO MY ATTACK!>

<NOT QUITE!>

PAY ATTENTION, SILVER...

FWOK!

I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S GOING TO PAY THESE HOSPITAL BILLS.

FWAMM!

OUR CLIENT WILL COVER THEM.

BARELY MANAGED TO SPIN AROUND IN TIME!

WHAT ABOUT OUR SHORTAGE OF MAN-POWER?!

I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO SHIP IN SOME NEW AGENTS FROM *SYMKARIA*.

BUT WE CAN DISCUSS THAT IN THE BRIEFING ROOM WITH OUR *PLANNING AND OPERATIONS* PEOPLE... AFTER I'VE HAD MY SHOWER!

<THANK YOU FOR A MOST INVIGORATING WORKOUT.>

<WE LIVE TO SERVE YOU, MISS SABLE!>

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, IN THE BRIEFING ROOM...

EVERYONE HERE? THEN LET'S BEGIN OUR REVIEW...

OUR CURRENT PROBLEM IS *JASON MACENDALE* --A FORMER *U.S.* MARINE WHO MAY HAVE ALSO HAD EXTENSIVE *CIA* TRAINING!

RUMOR HAS IT THAT MACENDALE'S METHODS PROVED TO BE A BIT TOO EXTREME FOR HIS SUPERIORS.

HE WAS DISMISSED... AND BECAME A MERCENARY ON THE INTER-NATIONAL CIRCUIT.

TERRORISM WAS HIS SPECIALITY!

TO HELP PROMOTE HIS DUBIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS HE EVENTUALLY ADOPTED A DISTINCTIVE COSTUME...

...AND BECAME KNOWN AS *JACK O'LANTERN!*

OUR CLIENT, A MINOR SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, BE-LIEVES HIM GUILTY OF TRAINING REBELS WITHIN THEIR BORDERS.

THEY WANT HIM NEUTRALIZED!

WE'VE MANAGED TO TO TRACK HIM TO THIS COUNTRY, WHERE HE'S BEEN SEEN BATTLING SOME UNIDENTIFIED ROBOT...

...AS WELL AS THE COSTUMED VIGILANTE KNOWN AS *SPIDER-MAN!*

SPIDER-MAN...!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

UNCLE MORTY, I DO BELIEVE I HAVE A SOLUTION TO OUR MAN-POWER CRISIS...AND WE WON'T EVEN HAVE TO NOTIFY *SYMKARIA!*

THAT'S A RELIEF! THE NATIONAL COUNCIL GETS SO TESTY WHEN-EVER I REQUEST ADDITIONAL SUPPORT!

BUT, WE'RE THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR SOURCE OF OUT-SIDE REVENUE!

THAT MAY WELL BE TRUE, BUT MANY MEM-BERS OF THE COUNCIL REMEMBER THAT YOUR FATHER ORIGINALLY FOUNDED THE *WILD PACK*, WITH THE AID OF THE *SYMKARIAN* GOVERNMENT, TO HUNT DOWN NAZI WAR CRIMINALS!

THEY DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT WE NOW HUNT ANYONE ...FOR A PRICE!
THAT'S TOO BAD!
MISS SABLE, THESE FLOWERS JUST ARRIVED FOR YOU!
TAKE CARE OF THEM, JAMES.
YES, MA'AM...BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD SEE THEM!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH BEAUTIFUL ORCHIDS!
ORCHIDS?!?
GIVE THEM TO ME!
NOW!!
WHAT THE--?!
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MISS SABLE?
YES...
YOU COULD SAY THAT!
RINGG
GOOD AFTERNOON, MY DEAR. I TRUST YOU ENJOYED THE FLOWERS
SLAMM
WAS THAT--?
YES. OUR OLD ENEMY.
GENTLEMEN, YOU MAY HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO COMPOSE YOURSELVES.
THEN, WE'LL DISCUSS MY SOLUTION TO OUR MANPOWER SHORTAGE...

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

I AM SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS, INCOMPETENTS AND ASSASSINS!

DAILY BUGLE

HOW COULD ANYONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND ALLOW AN AD LIKE THIS TO APPEAR IN MY NEWSPAPER?!

CLASSIFIE

ATTENTION SPIDER-MAN SILVER SABLE WANTS YOU!

GOOD PAY! EXCELLENT BENEFITS! CALL NOW!

OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY!

ISN'T IT BAD ENOUGH THAT WE GIVE THAT WEB-SWINGING MENACE FREE PUBLICITY? DO WE HAVE TO HELP SOLICIT BUSINESS FOR HIM, TOO?!

AS THE EDITOR IN CHIEF I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, JONAH.

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, ROBBIE!

YOU'RE EDITORIAL. YOU DON'T SEE THE ADS BEFORE THEY'RE PRINTED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COVER FOR ME, MR. ROBERTSON.

I APPROVED THAT PARTICULAR ADVERTISEMENT, MR. JAMESON.

IS THAT SO?

LISTEN HERE, CORNBLUTH, I EXPECT BETTER JUDGMENT FROM MY DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING!

THE MECHANICAL ARRIVED LATE LAST NIGHT BY BONDED MESSENGER...

...IT CAME WITH A BANK CHECK FOR *DOUBLE* OUR PREMIUM AD RATES!

DOUBLE OUR *PREMIUM* RATES?!

WELL, I, ER =*HARRUMPH*= SUPPOSE EVERYONE'S ENTITLED TO ONE MISTAKE, JASPER!

JUST CHECK WITH ROBBIE BEFORE YOU PRINT ANY MORE ADS OF A QUESTIONABLE NATURE!

BY THE WAY, ROBBIE, HAVE YOU SEEN *PARKER* ABOUT?

THE LAST I HEARD HE WAS AWAY ON AN ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU! FOR *NOW* MAGAZINE!

I EXPECTED HIM BACK LONG BE-FORE NOW...

"...I JUST HOPE HE ISN'T GOOFING OFF SOMEWHERE!"

RINGG

RINGG

RINGG

AT THAT MOMENT, AT KINGSLEY LIMITED...

WHERE'S PETER? WHY DOESN'T HE ANSWER HIS PHONE?

KINGSLEY

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH HIM IN DAYS!

IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE THAT I WISH I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE WAS SECRETLY SPIDER-MAN!

ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING LATELY...

...FLASH THOMPSON HAS BEEN ARRESTED AS THE HOBGOBLIN! BETTY AND NED LEEDS ARE BREAKING UP! AND, THERE'S OUR OWN SCREWY RELATIONSHIP...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THINGS STAND BETWEEN PETER AND ME ANYMORE!

HURRY IT UP, MARY JANE! MR. KINGSLEY WANTS TO SEE ALL THE MODELS BEFORE THE RUNWAY SHOW!

BE RIGHT THERE, JANICE!

WHERE ARE YOU, PETER? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

ELSEWHERE...

ANY OF YOU GUYS SEE THIS AD IN THE PAPER?

OTERS. Gym

PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?

FIVE WILL GET YOU TEN THAT THE BOSS AIN'T GONNA THINK SO!

HOLY--!

DAILY BUGLE

YOU'RE RIGHT!!

ZHOO

I HAVE BATTLED SPIDER-MAN BEFORE!

HE'S NO SPRING WEEKEND!

HIS SPEED AND AGILITY MAKE HIM MORE THAN A MATCH FOR MY WRIST-BLASTERS AND POGO PLATFORM!

BOING

JACK O' LANTERN!

BOING

YOU BUMS MAY HAVE BEEN LUCKY AGAINST SILVER SABLE'S HIRELINGS. YOU WON'T FARE AS WELL AGAINST THE WEB-SWINGER!

WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT WOMAN TO ENLIST HIM AGAINST US!

SHE MUST BE STOPPED!

PERMANENTLY!!

SOMETIME LATER...

THIS IS *NEW YORK LIFESTYLES*, AND I'M YOUR HOST, *JOHN DANCER!*

MY GUEST TODAY IS THE VERY LOVELY *MS. SILVER SABLE!*

WORLD NEWS WEEKLY CALLS HER COMPANY "THE MOST EFFICIENT DETECTIVE AGENCY ON EARTH!"

PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT *SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL...*

CERTAINLY, JOHN, ESSENTIALLY, WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF APPREHENDING INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS.

OUR CLIENTS USUALLY RANGE FROM MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF SMALL NATIONS.

ALL OF NEW YORK IS BUZZING ABOUT THIS AD.

CLASSIFIED

ATTENTION SPIDER-MAN SILVER SABLE WANTS YOU!

CAN YOU TELL US THE STORY BEHIND IT?

I'M AFRAID NOT, JOHN. THAT'S STRICTLY BETWEEN ME AND SPIDER-MAN.

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I NEED HIS HELP.

AND, I'M WILLING TO PAY FOR IT... *MOST GENEROUSLY!*

AND, SHORTLY...

NY TV Stu

DO YOU THINK THAT INTERVIEW WILL HELP GET THE WEB-SWINGER'S ATTENTION?

WHO KNOWS?

TAKE THE LIMO BACK TO THE EMBASSY, AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE LATER.

I FEEL LIKE WALKING.

I ENJOY WALKING ALONE. TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO DO IT MORE OFTEN.

I GUESS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SEND BACK TO SYMKARIA FOR MORE MEN IF I DON'T HEAR FROM SPIDER-MAN SOON.

UNCLE MORTY WILL BE FURIOUS! HE HATES THE IDEA OF USING THE *WILD PACK* FOR PROFIT!

HE'S CONVINCED THAT I'VE PERVERTED MY FATHER'S ORIGINAL DREAM!

BUT, WE HAD TO CHANGE WITH THE TIMES! THERE JUST AREN'T THAT MANY NAZI WAR CRIMINALS RUNNING AROUND ANYMORE.

BESIDES, SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE OF THE SYMKARIAN ECONOMY!

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WOULD GO UNDER WITHOUT US! I CAN'T LET ANYTHING DISTRACT ME FROM MY TRUE RESPONSIBILITIES...

BDAM! BDAM!

GUNSHOTS--!!

A HOLD-UP!

MOVE IT, YOU CLOWNS!

WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! THE CASHIER WOULDN'T COME ACROSS, SO I HAD TO PUT HIM DOWN!

DON'T ALL PILE INTO THE SAME CAR, JERKS!

WE BROUGHT TWO, REMEMBER?

C'MON, SNAKE!

BUT, THEN, AS SNAKE SPINS AROUND...

OUT OF MY WAY, LADY!

I'M WARNING YOU--!!

BDAM! BDAM!

HURRY!!

STUPID BIMBO...

"...WHY'D SHE HAVE TO GET IN MY WAY?!"

M-MOMMY--?!

MOMMY!!

THE CHILD'S CRY SINGES THE AIR, AND SILVER SABLE SUDDENLY REMEMBERS ANOTHER CHILD...

ANOTHER VICTIM...

AND, THEN...

ZOOM!

ANOTHER INNOCENT WHOSE LIFE WAS IRREVOCABLY SCARRED BY VIOLENCE!

SPLITTING UP IN DIFFERENT CARS WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS ON SNAKE'S PART!

MAYBE SO, BUT I THINK THE GUY'S GONE PSYCHO! OFFING A CASHIER'S ONE THING, BUT THAT LADY IN THE STREET... DEFINITELY NOT COOL!

DON'T BE A WIMP, MAN!

THUNK!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING LANDED ON THE--

LOOK OUT!!

CRASHH!!

PWAK!!

I WANT THE ONE CALLED SNAKE!

WHERE IS HE?

Y-YOU CRAZY, LADY?

Y-YOU TRYING TO KILL US ALL?

NO... JUST YOU... IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW!

TALK!!

Y-YEAH, SURE...

LATER, AT THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY...

MY WORD, SILVER! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN IN A STREET BRAWL!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE, UNCLE MORTY.

ANY WORD FROM SPIDER-MAN?

NOT YET.

CANCEL MY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE REST OF THE AFTER-NOON, JAMES.

I MUST ATTEND TO SOME RATHER PERSONAL BUSINESS!

SLAMM!

PERSONAL BUSINESS?!

DON'T ASK ME!

I REALLY SHOULD LEAVE THIS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES!

I HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION TO UPHOLD...

...AND I JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO GET INVOLVED IN A COMMON STREET ROBBERY!

I DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLIENT!

THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I CAN JUSTIFY THIS!

OH, WELL...

...I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO COVER THE EXPENSES MYSELF!

VA-ZOOM!!

HELLO, JACK...

GATHER YOUR WEAPONS!

THAT WAS BABYFACE AT THE EMBASSY! SABLE'S ON THE MOVE!

I HEARD THAT LADY WAS PRETTY TOUGH! IS IT WISE FOR US TO GO AFTER HER?

NOT REALLY...

...BUT, IT'S EVEN LESS WISE TO LET HER COME AFTER US!

BOING!

ELSEWHERE AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

WHERE'S PARKER?

POLICE

HE PROMISED TO VISIT ME TODAY! WHERE IS HE? DOESN'T HE REALIZE WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH?

EVERYONE THINKS I'M THE COSTUMED VILLAIN CALLED THE *HOBGOBLIN*, AND I NEED ALL THE FRIENDS I CAN GET!

MAY AS WELL FACE FACTS, THOMPSON-- PUNY PARKER BAILED OUT ON YOU!

HE'S DESERTED YOU LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE!

OTHERWISE, HE'D BE HERE!

MEANWHILE...

YOU SAY SHE ENTERED THAT OLD TENEMENT. WHY?

I COULDN'T EVEN GUESS!

I SUPPOSE IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER ANYWAY!

SURROUND THE PLACE, MEN! COVER ALL THE EXITS!

I WANT THAT WOMAN DEAD!

WE HEAR YA, JACK!

THERE! I HEARD IT AGAIN!

IT'S JUST THE WIND, SNAKE!

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER ONCE WE GET THE HEAT GOING ON THE OL' PROPANE!

NO! I'M SURE SOMEONE'S MOVING AROUND UPSTAIRS!

ELIOT! WILLIE! I WANT YOU GUYS TO SCOPE OUT THE UPPER FLOORS!

SURE, SURE, MAN... WHATEVER YOU SAY!

WHEW! THAT DUDE'S IN HIGH GEAR!

WHY DO YOU FIGURE HE'S SO SPOOKED?

IT'S GOTTA BE THE BROAD! YOU DON'T ICE A FRAIL WITHOUT PAYING A--

--PRICE?!

FWOK!

PWAP!

A MOST *PAINFUL* PRICE, MY FRIEND!

GOT TO KEEP MOVING! I HEAR OTHERS WALKING--

"--ON THE LANDING BELOW!"

COULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

THOSE GENTLEMEN CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK LIKE ANY STREET PUNKS I'VE EVER SEEN!

THEY'RE ALL CARRYING UZI SUB-MACHINE GUNS!

METHINKS IT'S TIME FOR MY OWN HEAVY ARTILLERY!

KEEP TOGETHER! WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANY-BODY!

FOKK

=URRK=

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY, HARRAS?

I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO ANSWER YOU, ARMAND!

WHAT THE--?!

HEY! LOOK AT THAT THING ON THE FLOOR!

FOKK

FOKK

IT'S CALLED A *CHAI*-- A WEAPON OF MY OWN INVENTION! VERY EFFICIENT, YES?

I RECOGNIZE THESE MEN! THEY'RE WANTED CRIMINALS--MERCENARIES WITH PRICES ON THEIR HEADS!

THIS OUTING MAY PROVE PROFITABLE AFTER ALL!

MEANWHILE...

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

PUNKS?! WHY WOULD SABLE BE INTERESTED IN SUCH AS THESE?

I-I DON'T KNOW NOTHING, MAN!

ELSEWHERE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING THROUGH ALL THIS FOR ONE BROAD!

WORD IS SHE'S REAL GOOD!

GIMME A BREAK! HOW GOOD COULD SHE POSSI-BLY BE?

THE BEST!

BWAK!

=UGNN=

F-FREEZE, LADY! I GOT YOU--

SWAT!

FA-KWASH!

--COVERED=

WE'RE GETTING MURDERED, JACK! I JUST FOUND FIVE MORE OF OUR GUYS LAID OUT IN THE HALL!

THAT BLASTED WOMAN WILL SMASH MY ENTIRE MERCENARY FORCE IF I DON'T TAKE CHARGE!

GET THE REMAINING MEN OUTSIDE! NOW!!

I'LL STOP HER MYSELF!

MOMENTS LATER...

ODD! THERE WAS A BRIEF FLURRY OF ACTIVITY, AND NOW THE PLACE IS AS QUIET AS A TOMB!

=MFFF=

WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

HARDLY!!

I PREFER TO THINK OF THEM AS BAIT!

JACK O'LANTERN!!

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MET, MY DEAR! YOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HOUNDING ME ACROSS THE GLOBE FOR MONTHS!

BWANG!

DON'T BOTHER WASTING YOUR CHAIS ON ME, LOVELY LADY! THEY'LL NEVER PENETRATE MY ARMORED HELMET!

IT'S A PITY THAT YOU LACK SIMILAR PROTECTION--

--FROM MY GAS GRENADES!

BWOOM!

I'M NOT PREPARED TO FACE ANYONE LIKE HIM! DIDN'T BRING THE PROPER WEAPONRY!

GUESS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO IMPROVISE!

CRASHING INTO THIS ROOM WILL GET ME AWAY FROM THE GAS, AND BUY ME A FEW PRECIOUS MOMENTS!

I JUST HOPE I CAN FIND SOMETHING THAT CAN BE USED AS A WEAPON!

GOTTA KEEP WORKING MY BONDS! I CAN FEEL THEM LOOSENING!

SURELY, YOU DON'T THINK AN OLD CHAIR WILL BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST ME!

WHY NOT?

THESE STAVES ARE GOOD AND STURDY!

BESIDES, ANYTHING CAN BECOME A DEADLY WEAPON IN MY HANDS!

I AM QUITE UN-IMPRESSED, SABLE!

THOSE CHUNKS OF WOOD BARELY PROVIDED YOU WITH A MOMENT'S DISTRACTION!

TRUE--

--BUT, THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO POSITION MYSELF TO MEET THE TIP OF YOUR POGO PLATFORM--

BOING!

KRAK

--AND SEND YOU SMASHING UPWARD!!

FINALLY MANAGED TO GET FREE.

MFFF

BLAST IT ALL! SNAKE'S GETTING AWAY!

NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT HIM NOW!

GOT TO REACH THIS PROPANE HEATER I NOTICED EARLIER!

THESE PUNKS MUST HAVE USED IT TO WARM THIS RAT TRAP!

I CAN HEAR JACK O' LANTERN BOUNCING IN BEHIND ME!

GOT TO SNAP THE PROPANE GAS ON HIGH--

--AND HOPE HIS FLAMING HELMET DOES THE REST!

KA-

BWOOM!

UNN THE CONCUSSIVE FORCE BLEW ME OUTSIDE!

SHATTERED MY HELMET! HEAD'S POUNDING!

BOING!

I DO BELIEVE A STRATEGIC RETREAT IS IN ORDER!

MANAGED TO AVOID THE BRUNT OF THE BLAST, BUT I'D BETTER GET THESE KIDS OUT OF HERE!

A CHAI--!

UH-OH! I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THAT CEILING!

WHEW BARELY GOT OUT BEFORE IT COLLAPSED!

NOW, THEN, WHERE'S JACK?

THERE HE IS! MINUS HIS PUMPKIN HEAD!

AND THERE GOES SNAKE!

SWELL! I ONLY HAVE THE ONE CHAI!

POKK!

UGNN

WHEN THE AUTHORITIES ARRIVE A FEW MINUTES LATER, THEY FIND **SILVER SABLE** STILL STANDING OVER THE UNCONSCIOUS **SNAKE**...

BOTH OF HIS HANDS HAVE BEEN BROKEN, AND HIS FACE IS COVERED WITH SPIT.

SOMETIME LATER...

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK!

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES PHONED EARLIER TO REPORT THAT YOU HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME KIND OF GANGWAR!

NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT, UNCLE. I MERELY TRACKED DOWN A FEW OF JACK O'LANTERN'S MEN.

MANAGED TO APPREHEND ELEVEN OF THEM--WHICH SHOULD ADD UP TO QUITE A REWARD!

WHAT ABOUT THAT STREET GANG YOU HELPED CAPTURE?

MERELY A BONUS FOR THE POLICE.

I SINCERELY DOUBT ANY REWARD HAD BEEN POSTED FOR THEM.

WHEN I HEARD THAT THEY HAD GUNNED DOWNED AN INNOCENT WOMAN IN THE STREET, I REMEMBERED HOW...

YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT, UNCLE MORTY. CERTAIN MEMORIES SHOULD *NEVER* BE UNLEASHED!

BY THE WAY, HAVE WE HEARD FROM SPIDER-MAN YET?

NO.

HUMFF I WONDER WHY NOT? WHERE IS HE?!

EPILOGUE: HOURS LATER, AS THE PEOPLE OF TEMPLE CORNERS, VIRGINIA, GATHER BEHIND NATIONAL GUARD BARRICADES TO WATCH THEIR FUTURE SMOLDER AND FADE...

HERE'S YOUR TEA, MS. MERCADO. THE CAPTAIN SAYS DE-BRIEFINGS ARE ALMOST OVER-- YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PHONE YOUR EDITOR SOON.

THANK YOU, CORPORAL.

CHARLA AND SETH ARE OKAY: THEIR STORY SHOULD SELL A LOT OF MAGAZINES.

BUT I'LL HAVE TO LET THE ROXXON ANGLE GO FOR NOW.

IT SEEMS ALL EVIDENCE OF THEIR INVOLVE-MENT WAS DESTROYED IN THE EXPLOSION AND I CAN'T FILE A STORY BASED ON HEARSAY.

I CAN, HOWEVER, KEEP A VERY CLOSE EYE ON THEM.

BUT EVEN THAT'S NOT THE BIG PROBLEM-- *THAT* PRIZE GOES TO PETER!

NOBODY'S BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM SINCE THE BLAST. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE... HE'S DEAD...

...BUT HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN LOST IN THOSE TUNNELS. HE MIGHT NEED *HELP*.

BLAST IT ALL--

"--WHERE *IS* PETER PARKER?!"

MARVEL®
25TH
ANNIVERSARY

© 1986 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TM

75¢ US
95¢ CAN
280 SEP
02457

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

YOUR FATE IS SEALED, WEB-SWINGER!

FEEL THE WRATH OF THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!

GUEST-STARRING THE SENSATIONAL SILVER SABLE!™

FRENZ/BREEDING '86

STAN LEE PRESENTS...

SPIDER-MAN

INTRODUCING

THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!

THE TIME: NOW!
THE PLACE: CONEY ISLAND PARK!
THE OBJECT: MURDER!!

SILVER SABLE! LOOK OUT!!

BWAM!

BWAM!

WHAT THE--?!

CONFUSED, FAITHFUL READER? DON'T BE! JUST TURN THIS PULSATING PAGE, AND ALL WILL SOON BE EXPLAINED!

BWAM!

TOM DeFALCO WRITER | RON FRENZ LAYOUTS | BRETT BREEDING PENCILS/INKS | JOE ROSEN LETTERING | PAUL J. BECTON COLORING | JIM OWSLEY EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

INCREDIBLE! EVEN WITH ME IN HIS ARMS, HE MANAGED A TWENTY FOOT LEAP!

THAT REALLY WASN'T NECESSARY, SPIDER-MAN.

I COULD HAVE SAVED MYSELF!

DAREDEVIL

LISTEN, LADY, YOU MAY BE HOT STUFF ON THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNTY HUNTING CIRCUIT--

--BUT, YOU'RE STRICTLY A BEGINNER WHEN IT COMES TO AVOIDING THE ELECTRO-BLASTS OF A SUPER-BADDIE LIKE *THE BEETLE!*

I'VE FOUND THEM!

THEY'RE ON THE ROOF OF THIS BUILDING!

DON'T SWEAT IT, PAL! I'LL KNOCK 'EM OFF!

THE BUILDING AIN'T BEEN BUILT THAT CAN WITHSTAND THE SUPER-POWERED CHARGE OF *THE RHINO!*

YOU WANT TO BE ON YOUR OWN, LADY? BE MY GUEST...

JUMP!!

BIG DEAL

BWOOM!

BARELY MANAGED TO REACH THIS WHIRLY-GIG!

PERHAPS, I WAS A BIT HASTY IN CHASTISING THE WEB-SWINGER.

BWAM!

THAT BLAST! IT CAME FROM ABOVE--!

I KNEW THAT A PROFESSIONAL AS SKILLED AS YOU COULD EASILY SURVIVE AN ATTACK BY A LUMBERING OAF LIKE THE RHINO!

TOO BAD YOU'RE NOW FACING A TRUE CRAFTSMAN IN THE ART OF ASSASSINATION!

NO ONE ESCAPES *BOOMERANG!*

SOUNDS LIKE SABLE'S IN TROUBLE!

SO AM I FOR THAT MATTER!

HOLD STILL, BLAST YOU!

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, BEETLE!

SPIDER-MAN IS MUCH TOO QUICK AND AGILE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!

BUT, HE'S PRACTICALLY MOVING IN SLOW MOTION WHEN COMPARED TO THE *SPEED DEMON!*

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO RUN A WHOLE LOT FASTER THAN ME, BUT I CAN CERTAINLY LEAP HIGHER THAN YOU!

DON'T GET TOO COCKY, SPEEDY!

NYAH! NYAH! YOU CAN'T REACH ME UP HERE!

MAYBE HE CAN'T, BUT *I CAN!!*

PWAM!

=*UGNN!*= THAT WATERY FIST CAUGHT ME IN MID-LEAP!

COULDN'T AVOID IT IN TIME, EVEN THOUGH MY SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME IT WAS COMING!

FWOP!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW, WALL-CRAWLER!

YOU AIN'T GOT A CHANCE AGAINST US!

THE BEETLE, THE RHINO, BOOMERANG, SPEED DEMON, AND NOW... *HYDRO-MAN!*

WHAT IS THIS... *OLD VILLAINS' WEEK?!*

HOW'D I EVER GET INVOLVED IN A MESS LIKE THIS?

AS IF IN ANSWER TO HIS SILENT QUERY, SPIDER-MAN QUICKLY REFLECTS ON THE EVENTS WHICH LED HIM HERE! EVENTS WHICH BEGAN A FEW HOURS AGO...

IT'S *GREAT* TO BE BACK HOME!

THERE WERE MANY TIMES IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT I DOUBTED I'D EVER SEE MANHATTAN AGAIN!

BUT I'M STILL IN ONE PIECE... EVEN THOUGH MY OLD RED AND BLUE COSTUME IS GONE FOR GOOD!*

*SEE *WEB OF SPIDER-MAN* #16-18 FOR DETAILS -- OWZ!

OH, WELL, CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!

I'M MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN THIS AD I FOUND IN TODAY'S *DAILY BUGLE*...

..!" ATTENTION, SPIDER-MAN, SILVER SABLE WANTS YOU!"

SABLE'S AN INTERNATIONAL BOUNTY-HUNTER! WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY WANT WITH A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SWINGER LIKE ME?*

GUESS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...

*YOU'D KNOW IF YOU READ LAST ISSUE--OWZ.

ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, WHENEVER SABLE'S IN TOWN SHE STAYS HERE--IN THE *SYMKARIAN* MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE...

AH, MY DEAR SILVER, YOUR BEAUTY IS STILL AS BREATH-TAKING AS A DESERT SUNSET!

I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THIS CHAMPAGNE. I HAD IT FLOWN IN FROM FRANCE ON THIS MORNING'S CONCORDE ESPECIALLY FOR THIS OCCASION.

I'M SURE IT WILL DO, HAMED.

MY ILLUSTRIOUS FATHER SENDS HIS REGARDS. HIS HEALTH HAS BEEN EXCELLENT EVER SINCE YOU DROVE THOSE HEATHEN TERRORISTS FROM OUR BELOVED HOMELAND.

ONE MAN'S TERRORIST IS ANOTHER'S PATRIOT, HAMED.

BUT, LET'S NOT DISCUSS POLITICS. THIS AFTERNOON SHALL BE DEVOTED TO THE ENJOYMENT OF OUR CHAMPAGNE... AND OTHER MUTUAL DELIGHTS!

MY, MY, DOESN'T THAT SOUND TEMPTING!

WHAT THE--?!

SPIDER-MAN!

I HEARD YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME, LADY!

HAVE I DROPPED IN AT A BAD TIME?

SILVER, DO YOU KNOW THIS BRAZEN INTRUDER?

YES, AND I HAVE SOME RATHER PRESSING BUSINESS TO DISCUSS WITH HIM.

I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE OUR LITTLE INTERLUDE, HAMED, PLEASE HAVE MY SECRETARY CHECK MY APPOINTMENT CALENDAR ON YOUR WAY OUT.

B-BUT...

DON'T BE DIFFICULT, HAMED. YOU KNOW THAT I NEVER ALLOW PLEASURE PRECEDENCE OVER BUSINESS.

SORRY I BUSTED IN ON YOU AND OL' LUCKLESS OF ARABIA!

DON'T GIVE IT A THOUGHT. WE HAVE WORK TO DO.

WE DO?!

YES, YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME APPREHEND A MOST DANGEROUS INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST!

A GENTLEMAN BY THE NAME OF... *JACK O'LANTERN!*

SILVER DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I RECENTLY DECIDED TO GIVE UP BEING SPIDER-MAN!* I ONLY CAME HERE BECAUSE MY CURIOSITY GOT THE BEST OF ME!

WHY ME? WHY NOT THE *AVENGERS*, OR THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*?

*SEE ISSUE #275--OWZ!

THEY DON'T APPROVE OF MERCENARIES LIKE ME!

I FULLY INTEND TO COLLECT A HEFTY REWARD FOR CAPTURING JACK!

FAREWELL, HAMED! PERHAPS NEXT TIME...

OF COURSE, I SHALL PAY YOU A SUBSTANTIAL FEE... *IN CASH!*

FORGET IT, LADY! I'M NOT FOR HIRE!

WHY NOT?

YOU'VE BATTLED JACK O'LANTERN IN THE PAST! WHY NOT BE PAID FOR YOUR EFFORTS?

I DON'T FIGHT FOR MONEY!

WHY DO YOU?

BECAUSE...ER... BECAUSE...

NEVER MIND! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

LATER, AT THE POLICE PRECINCT WHICH HOLDS FLASH THOMPSON, ONE OF PETER PARKER'S OLDEST FRIENDS, AND NOW ACCUSED COSTUMED KILLER...

I'M DESPERATE, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP!

THE POLICE ARE HOLDING ME HERE BECAUSE THEY'RE CONVINCED I'M THE *HOBGOBLIN!*

SOME LUNATIC EVEN TRIED TO KILL ME A FEW DAYS AGO!*

SHA SHAN, MY LAWYER SAYS THAT I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR TESTIMONY TO BEAT THIS RAP! CAN I COUNT ON YOU?

I COULDN'T COUNT ON YOU, FLASH!

*SEE ISSUE #278--OWZ!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I LOVED YOU, FLASH! DEVOTED MYSELF TO YOU!

AND YOU BETRAYED ME BY SEEING THAT ***LEEDS*** WOMAN BEHIND MY BACK!

SHA SHAN, YOU CAN'T KEEP PUNISHING ME FOR THAT ONE MISTAKE!

I NEED YOU, GIRL!

THEY'RE GONNA CONVICT ME!

PLEASE, BABY, DON'T TURN AGAINST ME NOW!

TIME'S UP, THOMPSON! YOU HAVE ANOTHER VISITOR!

MRS. LEEDS, YOU'RE NEXT...

OH, GREAT, WHY DID BETTY LEEDS HAVE TO SHOW UP NOW?

SHA SHAN? I'M SHARON BANKS, FLASH'S LAWYER. CAN WE TALK?

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU, MISS BANKS.

SHE'D MAKE A SWELL WITNESS... FOR THE PROSECUTION!

HI, MS. BANKS! HOW'S FLASH'S DEFENSE SHAPING UP?

YOU WANT THE TRUTH, PARKER...OR SHOULD I FAKE OPTIMISM?

I CAN'T EVEN GET HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND TO VOUCH FOR HIM--

--AND SHE WAS LIVING WITH HIM DURING THE TIME HE WAS ALLEGEDLY THE HOBGOBLIN!

FLASH IS GETTING EXACTLY WHAT HE DESERVES!

I HOPE THEY THROW AWAY THE KEY!

A GOOD DEFENSE COSTS BIG MONEY, AND I JUST DON'T HAVE THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO PROVIDE FLASH WITH THE KIND HE'LL NEED!

I'D LOVE TO HIRE AN ARMY OF DETECTIVES TO SEARCH FOR THE REAL HOBGOBLIN, BUT WHO'D FOOT THE BILL?

FLASH COULD REALLY USE A GUARDIAN ANGEL RIGHT NOW!

A *RICH* ONE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

MAY AS WELL FACE FACTS...

I CAN'T HANG UP MY WEBS WHILE FLASH STILL NEEDS ME!

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S REALLY THE HOBGOBLIN, OR NOT! I DON'T EVEN CARE!

HE'S MY FRIEND, AND I'VE GOT TO DO WHATEVER'S NECESSARY TO HELP HIM!

AND SO...

I'M SO PLEASED THAT YOU DECIDED TO RECONSIDER MY OFFER!

MAY I ASK WHY?

LET'S JUST SAY THAT I FOUND A USE FOR YOUR MONEY!

AN EXCELLENT REASON!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE WE CAN FIND JACK O'LANTERN?

HE'LL BE AT THE CONEY ISLAND PARK AT MIDNIGHT!

HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD! HOW'D YOU LEARN THAT? DETECTIVE WORK? DOUBLE AGENTS?

ACTUALLY, HE PHONED AND TOLD ME!

ARE YOU CRAZY?

HE'S OBVIOUSLY PLANNING A TRAP!

OBVIOUSLY! WHY ELSE WOULD I WANT YOU ALONG?

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL, WON'T WE?*

*SEE! I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING WOULD BE EXPLAINED AS WE WENT ALONG -- HONEST OWZ!

AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, SPIDER-MAN'S REVERIE IS SUDDENLY CUT SHORT AS--

WHOOPS!

I GUESS SILVER AND I WEREN'T AS CAREFUL AS WE THOUGHT!

YOU OKAY, LADY?

I ALWAYS LIKE TO MAKE SURE MY DATE'S HAVING A GOOD TIME.

THIS IS TERRIBLE, SPIDER-MAN!

THE NIGHT IS TURNING OUT SO MUCH WORSE THAN I EVER IMAGINED!

DO THE ODDS CONCERN YOU?

NO, THE FOES!

THERE ISN'T A DECENT BOUNTY AMONG THEM!

WHERE'S JACK O'LANTERN? HE'S THE ONE WE'RE BEING PAID TO NEUTRALIZE!

I'M AFRAID JACK WAS DETAINED ELSEWHERE!

HE SENT US IN HIS STEAD!

THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!

FACE IT! THIS AIN'T GONNA BE ONE OF YER BETTER DAYS!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SPIDER-MAN... ESPECIALLY UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES!

YEAH! WE ALL HAVE REASON TO WANT YOU DEAD!

THE BROAD'S A BONUS! JACK O'LANTERN TOLD US SHE'S GOT AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CIRCLES!

WE'LL MAKE OURS BY TRASHING HER!

BOOMERANG, *NOW*--YOU AND I WILL TAKE THE GIRL!

THE OTHERS CAN ENJOY THE WALL-CRAWLER'S COMPANY!

SILVER, *NO!* *DON'T RUN!*

NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D PANIC LIKE THAT!

BUT, I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT HER NOW!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SPIDER-MAN?

DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT STRATEGY DICTATES THAT WE DIVIDE OUR FOES?

I'M MUCH TOO VULNERABLE OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS!

PERHAPS THIS BUILDING WILL PROVIDE ME WITH SHELTER--!

KRAKK!

THUMPP!

ONLY TWO ENTRANCES TO COVER... *WAIT!* SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING LANDED ON THE ROOF!

THRIPPP!

SURPRISED, WOMAN?

DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT MY ARMORED BATTLE-SUIT AUGMENTS MY STRENGTH TO SUPER-HUMAN LEVELS?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... *NO!*

GIVE IT UP, WEB-MAN!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN HURT A GUY WHO CAN TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO WATER!
WHO'S TRYING? I JUST HAVE THIS THING FOR JUMPING IN PUDDLES...ESPECIALLY WALKING ONES!
TOO BAD I FOR-GOT MY GALOSHES!

GOOD WORK, HYDRO-MAN! YOU SLOWED SPIDER-MAN DOWN!
TUCKERED HIM OUT!
NOW, IT'S MY TURN!

I'LL KEEP HAMMERING HIM TILL HE DROPS!

SPEED DEMON DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I COULD HAVE EASILY AVOIDED HIM WITH A LEAP!
JUST HAVE TO WITHSTAND HIS BLOWS FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS!
HAD TO GET CLOSE TO HIM TO DO--

--THIS!
YEEOW! YOU TRIPPED ME!
THAT'S THE GENERAL IDEA!

DON'T COMPLAIN! PEOPLE USUALLY PAY GOOD MONEY FOR A RIDE LIKE THAT!

REAL CUTE, SPIDER-MAN!
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY THE SAME STUNT ON ME!
YOU KIDDING?
I'M LUCKY I DIDN'T BREAK MY ARM THE FIRST TIME!

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE...
EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!

WHILE THE SINISTER SYNDICATE BATTLES SPIDER-MAN AND THAT WOMAN IN MY PLACE, I AM FREE TO SCOUR UP NEW BUSINESS!
SILVER SABLE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO MATCH WITS WITH JACK O'LANTERN!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, A PENSIVE BETTY LEEDS SLOWLY WALKS HOME...

NEVER THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO SHA SHAN AT THE POLICE STATION!

THAT LOOK SHE SHOT ME WAS PURE HATRED!

CAN I BLAME HER?

THE PAIN--THE HUMILIATION--I MUST HAVE CAUSED HER!

I NEVER STOPPED TO CONSIDER THAT WHILE FLASH AND I WERE DATING! I WAS TOO WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN PROBLEMS!

TORN BETWEEN ATTRACTION FOR FLASH AND LOYALTY TO MY HUSBAND, NED!

MOMENTS LATER, AS BETTY NEARS HER APARTMENT BUILDING SHE IS STARTLED TO SEE...

NED?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH, BETTY! I'M TIRED OF WAITING AROUND WHILE YOU DECIDE BETWEEN ME, AND THAT CRIMINAL FLASH THOMPSON!

THE MAN'S IN *JAIL*, AND YOU STILL CAN'T MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

NED, *WAIT--!*

YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW! WHAT ABOUT OUR MARRIAGE?

DOESN'T IT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?!

MUCH MORE THAN IT OBVIOUSLY MEANS TO YOU!

CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY THAT I AM THE MAN YOU LOVE?

I DIDN'T THINK SO!

I LOVE YOU NED. I REALLY DO.

MAYBE I JUST DON'T LOVE YOU ENOUGH.

JUST THEN, A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM CONEY ISLAND PARK...

...AT 122-14 SOUTH MARTIN STREET, BROOKLYN.

I'M GONNA GO HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDS!

BE HOME EARLY, CARLOS!

AW, MOM--!

DINNER WAS GREAT, MRS. CASSADA...LIKE ALWAYS!

CAN I HELP WITH THE DISHES?

YOU ALREADY DO TOO MUCH AROUND THIS HOUSE, MR. MANN!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX WITH MY HUSBAND AND MICHAEL?

I THINK I'LL GET SOME FRESH AIR INSTEAD!

I REALLY ENJOY WALKING ALONG THE BEACH AT NIGHT!

TAKING IN AN UPSTAIRS BOARDER WASN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA! EH, ROBERTO?

WE WERE LUCKY, ROSA! MOST TENANTS AREN'T AS POLITE, AND AS WELL-BEHAVED AS...

"...SYLVESTER MANN!"

NEVER THOUGHT I'D END UP IN THE SUBURBS!

THINGS HAVE BEEN A WHOLE LOT QUIETER FOR ME EVER SINCE I STOPPED STOMPING AROUND THE COUNTRY AS--

--THE SANDMAN!

I'M SO GLAD I GAVE UP THAT PART OF MY LIFE!

CONTENTMENT FILLS THE FACE OF THE FORMER SUPER-VILLAIN.

UNFORTUNATELY, HIS PEACEFUL EXISTENCE WILL SOON END...

MEANWHILE...

WHERE IS SHE?

I'D HEARD SABLE WAS REAL GOOD, BUT EVEN I'M SURPRISED SHE GOT AWAY FROM THE BEETLE!

MAYBE THAT'LL CONVINCE THE OTHERS THAT I SHOULD BE LEADER!

SHE'S NEARBY! I CAN ALMOST FEEL HER--

--PRESENCE

PHWAM!

IS THIS WHAT PASSES FOR A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN IN THIS COUNTRY?

PERHAPS I SHOULD PURSUE MORE AMERICAN CRIMINALS!

I AM NOT TOTALLY DISPLEASED THAT YOU TOOK OUT BOOMERANG!

THE BEETLE!

YOU SAVED ME THE TROUBLE OF CUTTING HIM DOWN A FEW PEGS!

HE'S ABOVE ME, TO THE RIGHT!

BDAM!

BDAM!

YOUR REFLEXES ARE QUITE IMPRESSIVE!

YOUR WEAPONRY IS NOT!

I'M VIRTUALLY INVULNERABLE WHEN ENCASED IN THIS BATTLE ARMOR!

IT'S A TECHNOLOGICAL MARVEL! A WORK OF MY OWN PURE GENIUS!

KEEP BRAGGING! YOU'RE ONLY GIVING ME MORE TIME TO DEVISE A WAY TO DEFEAT YOU!

KWANG!

COME ON DOWN AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN!

HOW COULD I EVER REFUSE SUCH A CHARMING INVITATION?

JUST GIVE ME ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH WEBBING UP MY SORE ARM!

BY THE WAY, I LIKE YOUR NEW DUDS!

DID YOUR MOMMY PICK THEM OUT FOR YOU?

DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!

I HATE BEING A LIVING RHINO!

I EVEN TURNED MY-SELF OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR HELP, BUT THEY COULDN'T DO MUCH!

I'M GONNA NEED A SERIES OF ILLEGAL OPERATIONS TO BECOME HUMAN, AGAIN!

THAT'S WHY I JOINED THIS SYNDICATE! TO EARN THE MONEY÷

÷*SHEESH*÷ I ASKED YOU A SIMPLE QUESTION!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL ME YOUR LIFE'S STORY!

YOU'LL *PAY* FOR THAT!

AW, WOULD YOU BELIEVE I LEFT MY AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD HOME?

GET AWAY FROM THE RHINO! LEAVE 'IM ALONE!

WHY? IS IT YOUR TURN TO DANCE?!

JUST THEN, IN MID-TOWN MANHATTAN...

...AND I OFFER A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES FROM SIMPLE EXTORTION TO PUBLIC ASSASSINATIONS!

AS THE UNDISPUTED *KINGPIN* OF ALL CRIME IN THE NORTH-EAST, I FIGURED YOU COULD USE A MAN LIKE ME.

YOUR RESUMÉ IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE *JACK O'LANTERN.* UNFORTUNATELY, I RECENTLY HIRED SOMEONE WITH SIMILAR EXPERTISE.

A GENTLEMAN CALLED *NUKE!**

NUKE? BUT, HE'S A PSYCHO--!

GOOD DAY, SIR. YOU'LL BE CALLED IF I HAVE NEED OF YOU.

* SEE *DAREDEVIL* -- OWZ!

ELSEWHERE...

KINGSLEY LTD.

I HATE IT WHEN I CAN'T REACH PETER PARKER!

I'M ALWAYS AFRAID HE'S RISKING HIS LIFE AS SPIDER-MAN!

HE'S PROBABLY ON AN ASSIGN-MENT FOR THE DAILY BUGLE, OR...

...OUT WITH ANOTHER GIRL? *HMM!* THAT THOUGHT BOTHERS ME A LOT MORE THAN IT SHOULD!

HEY, MARY JANE! TELL KINGSLEY WE'RE READY FOR HIM!

SURE THING, PATTY!

RODERICK KINGSLEY SPENDS AN AWFUL LOT OF TIME IN THIS WORKROOM! I WONDER WHAT HE DOES IN HERE?

MR. KINGSLEY--?

YES, WHAT IS IT?

THEY'RE READY TO BEGIN REHEARSING TOMORROW'S RUNWAY SHOW!

I'LL BE ALONG IN A MOMENT!

WHO WAS THAT?

JUST ONE OF THE MODELS. NOTHING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT.

DON'T BE SO SMUG!

WE'LL BOTH GO TO JAIL IF ANYONE EVER LEARNS THE TRUTH ABOUT US!

I KNOW.

SOMETIME LATER, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, YOU AND THE HOBGOBLIN HAD A "BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT"...

HOW DOES THAT CONCERN YOU, MISTER--?

JACK WILL DO. WHAT SHALL I CALL YOU?

I AM KNOWN AS *THE ROSE!*

YEAH, WELL, FOR A REASONABLE FEE I COULD BUST HOBGOBLIN OUT OF JAIL...

OR, I COULD TAKE HIS PLACE!

AN INTRIGUING PROPOSITION. ALLOW ME TO CONSIDER IT.

THE REAL HOBGOBLIN ISN'T GOING TO BE THRILLED TO HEAR THAT THIS GUY'S TRYING TO BEAT HIS TIME!

NO, HE WON'T!

I'M CERTAIN I CAN USE THAT TO MY ADVANTAGE.

IT WOULD BE SUCH A PITY IF THE TWO OF THEM ACCIDENTALLY KILLED EACH OTHER IN BATTLE!

JUST THEN, BACK AT CONEY ISLAND PARK...

HE'S THROUGH TOYING WITH ME!

I CAN ALMOST FEEL HIM CLOSING IN!

YOU'VE LED ME ON QUITE A CHASE, WOMAN, BUT IT'S ABOUT TO *END!*

HAVE TO DO THE LAST THING HE EXPECTS--AND *ATTACK!*

IF ONLY I CAN REACH THE JUTTING ARM OF THAT RIDE--!

REACH IT, SHE DOES! AND THEN--

BWA NGG!

:UNNN:

THE IMPACT CAUGHT HIM TOTALLY BY SURPRISE!

I MANAGED TO STUN HIM, BUT, AT *WHAT* COST?!

NEED A FEW SECONDS TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE TO MY OWN BODY! THE ASTROTOWER--!

:UGN: FEELS LIKE I BROKE BOTH ANKLES WHEN I COLLIDED WITH THE BEETLE'S BATTLE-SUIT!

GOT TO GET THIS PAIN UNDER CONTROL BEFORE HE RENEWS HIS ATTACK, OR I'M DEAD!

BUT, AT THAT VERY SPLIT-SECOND, A LIVING BLUR ROCKETS TOWARD THE TOWER...

LADY, YOU JUST MADE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YOUR CAREER!

SNAP!

THE SPEED DEMON ACTIVATED THE TOWER!

IT'S RACING SKYWARD!!

SILVER--!

SHE'S TRAPPED! THERE'S NO PLACE TO RUN UP THERE!

MANAGED TO SNAG THE BOTTOM OF THE TOWER!

THWIPP

THIS IS REALLY NUTS! WE'RE BOTH RISKING OUR NECKS, AND FOR *WHAT*?!

SURE, I NEED THE MONEY TO HELP FLASH THOMPSON, BUT IS ANYTHING WORTH ALL THIS GRIEF?!

YOU OKAY?

MY ANKLES ARE IN BAD SHAPE, BUT I'LL SURVIVE!

NOT IF THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!

HANG ON!

BWOOM!

NO ARGUMENT THIS TIME!

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

CYCLO

WE'RE TAKING A LITTLE ROLLER COASTER RIDE!

WE'LL HIDE INSIDE THESE TRACKS UNTIL WE CAN PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE!

WE SHOULD BE SAFE HERE!

IT'S MUCH TOO DANGEROUS FOR THEM TO EVEN THINK OF COMING IN AFTER US!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!

COME ON, YOU GUYS! WE GOT 'EM RIGHT WHERE WE WANT 'EM!

THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN GET AWAY NOW!

THEY'RE FINISHED!!

ALL WE GOTTA DO IS KNOCK OUT THESE SUPPORTS TO BRING THE WHOLE DARNED THING DOWN ON THEM!

KWAK!

BZAP!

AN EXCELLENT PLAN!

I LIKE IT, TOO!

PWAM!

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! THEY MAY MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

FWOK!

NOT A CHANCE!

BWAM!

BLOW AFTER HIGH-IMPACT BLOW ROCKS THE MASSIVE STRUCTURE AS ITS FOUNDATIONS ARE BRUTALLY RIPPED AWAY!

THE MOST FAMOUS ROLLER COASTER IN THE WORLD SUDDENLY BEGINS TO SHUDDER, TO QUAKE, AND THEN--

KA-

FWASH!!

BARELY A HALF MILE AWAY, A PENSIVE MAN IS VIOLENTLY YANKED FROM HIS THOUGHTS...

THAT AWFUL CRASH--!

WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT?!

ALMOST AGAINST HIS WILL, HE FEELS HIMSELF DRAWN TO THE SITE OF THE MASSIVE EXPLOSION!

IT'S AN ACT HE WILL LIVE TO REGRET!

ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?

A CHARACTER BY THE NAME OF JACK O'LANTERN HAS BEEN NOSING AROUND FOR MY JOB?

DON'T WORRY! I CAN SAFELY ASSURE YOU THAT HE WON'T TROUBLE YOU, AGAIN!

YOU CAN COUNT ON THE WORD OF...*THE HOBGOBLIN!*

THE ROSE DOESN'T FOOL ME FOR A MOMENT!

IT'S REAL OBVIOUS THAT HE WANTS ME TO FIGHT JACK O'LANTERN!

PERHAPS HE'S HOPING THAT I'LL GET MYSELF KILLED SO THAT HE WON'T HAVE TO PAY ME MY SHARE OF THE PROFITS FROM OUR CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES!

I'M SURE IT WOULDN'T COME AS A SURPRISE TO THE ROSE TO LEARN THAT I HAVE SIMILAR PLANS FOR...

...HIM?!

WELL, WELL, LOOK *WHO* WE HAVE HERE!

YOU'RE USUALLY THE LAST PERSON I EXPECT TO RUN INTO ON THE STREET!

IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU, MARY JANE!

ISN'T IT, THOUGH?

YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE INTO SOME PRETTY HEAVY THOUGHTS WHEN I POPPED UP!

I'M AFRAID THAT MY LIFE HAS BEEN RATHER CHAOTIC LATELY!

REALLY? TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!

MEANWHILE...

÷UNNN÷

M-MY BACK IS KILLING ME! GOT TO GET OUT FROM UNDER ALL THIS DEBRIS!

IT'S A MIRACLE SILVER AND I WEREN'T CRUSHED, AND KILLED INSTANTLY!

SPIDER-MAN, EVERYTHING'S SO STILL--SO QUIET!

DO YOU THINK OUR PLAYMATES HAVE GIVEN UP ON US?

NOT A CHANCE, LADY!

NAH! THE REAL FUN'S JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN ...*FOR US!*

FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS!

THE *END* HAS COME FOR YOU AT LAST!

NEXT ISSUE: **SPIDER-MAN** AND **SILVER** CONTINUE THEIR BATTLE AGAINST THE **SINISTER SYNDICATE! HOBGOBLIN** TAKES ON **JACK O'LANTERN! SANDMAN** VERSUS **HYDRO-MAN!** DON'T MISS...

"WHEN WARRIORS CLASH!"

PLUS: A STARTLING DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAGA OF FLASH THOMPSON!

MARVEL® 25TH ANNIVERSARY

THIS ONE'S GOT IT ALL!

THE HOBGOBLIN!™ JACK O' LANTERN!™ SILVER SABLE!™ THE SANDMAN!™

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

SYNDICATE!™

TM

75¢ US
95¢ CAN
281 OCT
CC 02457

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE RHINO!

HYDRO-MAN!

SPEED DEMON!

THE BEETLE!

...SHEESH...

BOOM-ERANG!

WARRIORS CLASH!

© 1986 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

ALL CHARACTERS (TM) AND COPYRIGHT © 1986 MARVEL COMICS GROUP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

SPIDER-MAN

GET READY FOR NON-STOP ACTION IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL TRADITION!

"WHEN WARRIORS CLASH..!"

LAST ISSUE: TO HELP HIS FRIEND FLASH THOMPSON PAY FOR HIS LEGAL COSTS, SPIDER-MAN AGREED TO WORK FOR SILVER SABLE, THE WORLD-FAMOUS BOUNTY HUNTER, WHO WAS ON THE TRAIL OF JACK O'LANTERN! ACTING ON A TIP, THEY JOURNEYED TO CONEY ISLAND PARK, AND THEN...

YOU CAME LOOKING FOR JACK O'LANTERN, BUT ENDED UP WITH THE SINISTER SYNDICATE!

FACE IT, KIDDIES! THIS AIN'T GONNA BE ONE OF YER BETTER DAYS!

YOU'RE DEAD!

WE'VE JUST BEEN SOFTENING YOU UP! NOW IS WHEN THE FUN REALLY BEGINS--!

STAN LEE *PRESENTS:*

TOM DEFALCO — WRITER
RON FRENZ — STORY LAYOUTS
BRETT BREEDING — PENCILS & INKS
JOE ROSEN — LETTERS
NELSON YOMTOV — COLORS
JIM OWSLEY — EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER — EDITOR IN CHIEF

HIRING US WAS THE SMARTEST MOVE JACK O'LANTERN EVER MADE!

YOU TWO HAVE LED US ON QUITE A MERRY CHASE!

IT'S ALMOST A PITY THAT IT IS FINALLY OVER!

I HOPE YOU DON'T EXPECT *US* TO REFUND YOUR ADMISSION PRICE!

THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME FOR LEVITY, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'VE INJURED YOUR ARM, AND I'VE APPARENTLY SPRAINED BOTH ANKLES!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET *THAT* SPOIL AN OTHERWISE PERFECT EVENING, ARE YOU?

OF COURSE NOT! I'M MUCH MORE WORRIED ABOUT OUR *HOSTS*--

"--I'M AFRAID THERE ISN'T A DECENT REWARD TO BE CLAIMED ON ANY OF THEM!"

MISS SABLE, I AM CERTAIN THAT WILL CHANGE AS SOON AS THE WORLD LEARNS HOW EASILY THE *SINISTER SYNDICATE* DESTROYED YOU TWO!

BUT THEN, SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT WARNING...

AW, SHUT UP!!

FWOOM

UGN! BEING ATTACKED FROM BEHIND!

WHO COULD HAVE DONE THAT TO THE *BEETLE*?!

YOU'VE GOT EYES, BOOMERANG! *USE THEM!*

SPIDER-MAN, DO YOU RECOGNIZE OUR MYSTERIOUS SAVIOR?

I'M AFRAID I DO...

GET AWAY FROM THE WEB-SWINGER AND THE BROAD! I'M WARNING YA--!

LEAVE 'EM ALONE, OR GET TRASHED BY...*THE SANDMAN!*

WHAT'S THE SANDMAN DOING HERE? I HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE THAT HE HAD RETIRED FROM CRIME!

STOP THAT FOOL BEFORE HE RUINS EVERYTHING!

WITH PLEASURE!

I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF OLD SCORES TO SETTLE WITH THIS BUM!

YOU ALWAYS DID HAVE A BIG MOUTH, *HYDRO-MAN!*

LET ME CLOSE IT FOR YA!

SPWASH!

DON'T KNOW WHERE SANDY POPPED UP FROM--OR WHY HE'S HELPING US--BUT, MY FIRST PRIORITY IS GETTING SILVER TO SAFETY!

CAN YOU WALK, LADY?

I CAN MANAGE LET'S FIND SOME COVER.

YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR STICKING YOUR BIG, FAT NOSE INTO OUR PRIVATE BUSINESS!

NOBODY--NOT EVEN YOU--CAN WITHSTAND THE MATCHLESS POWER OF *THE RHINO!*

YOU GOT ME QUAKING, PAL!

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I CAN INSTANTLY MAKE MY BODY ALL SOFT AND SANDY!

HYDRO-MAN! *LOOK OUT!* CAN'T STOP MYSELF!

÷UFF÷

THESE CLOWNS DON'T REALIZE THAT I LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND CAME RUNNING WHEN I HEARD ALL THE COMMOTION!*

*SEE LAST ISSUE--OWZ!

I DON'T GIVE A HANG ABOUT SPIDER-MAN -- THOUGH I WASN'T TOO CRAZY ABOUT THE ODDS AGAINST HIM!

I JUST HATE HYDRO-MAN AND COULDN'T RESIST THE OPPORTUNITY TO SCREW THINGS UP FOR HIM AND HIS PALS!

UH-OH! MORE TROUBLE'S HEADING MY WAY!

NOT FAR AWAY...

THIS NIGHT HAS BEEN A TOTAL DISASTER! WE CAN'T MAKE A PROFIT HERE.

LET'S GO HOME!

WHAT ABOUT THE SANDMAN?

WHAT ABOUT HIM? WHILE I APPRECIATE HIS HELP, I DIDN'T REQUEST IT, NOR DO I EXPECT TO COMPENSATE HIM FOR IT!

BUT, IT WOULD BE WRONG TO RUN OUT ON HIM!

HE'S A BIG BOY! HE KNEW THE RISKS!

AS LONG AS YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME, YOU'LL OBEY MY ORDERS!

WE'LL SAVE THIS ARGUMENT FOR LATER!

WE'VE GOT TO MOVE! *NOW!!*

YOU MISSED HIM, BOOMERANG!

IT'S UNCANNY THE WAY HE MANAGED TO AVOID MY BLASTERANG!

IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE KNEW WE WERE COMING!

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN MANHATTAN . . .

THE *SINISTER SYNDICATE* IS CHARGING ME A SMALL FORTUNE TO ELIMINATE *SABLE!*

WHY DIDN'T YOU LET US HANDLE HER, BOSS?

THAT WOMAN IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN SHE APPEARS!

I THOUGHT IT MUCH MORE COST-EFFECTIVE TO LEAVE HER EXECUTION TO OUTSIDERS, WHILE WE PURSUED MORE LUCRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS!

UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY WORK!

DANGER: EXPLOSIVES

THE LOCAL CRIME-LORDS DO NOT FULLY APPRECIATE MY UNIQUE SKILLS!

A CRIME SO BOLD, SO DARING THAT IT'S GUARANTEED TO ATTRACT MAJOR NOTICE!

TAKE IT FROM ME, BOYS! THE JOB OFFERS WILL COME FLOODING IN!

THEY THINK OF ME AS MERE MUSCLE FOR HIRE-- A SIMPLE COSTUMED ENFORCER!

THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT I AM A MASTER CRAFTSMAN--*AN ARTIST*--IN THE FIELD OF TERRORISM!

WELL, I'LL SHOW THEM!

A FREE DEMONSTRATION OF MY TALENTS!

EVERY CRIMELORD IN THIS CITY WILL SOON BE BIDDING FOR THE SERVICES OF *JACK O'LANTERN!*

JUST THEN, AT THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF THE *DAILY BUGLE*...

DAILY BUGLE

HERE'S YOUR PAPER, MR. JAMESON!

TOMORROW'S MORNING EDITION!

HERE YA GO SIR! THE PAPERS STILL WARM!

THAT'S THE BEST PART, MY BOY! THE *BEST* PART!

HARRUMPH! ANOTHER FEATURE ARTICLE ON THE HOBGOBLIN?!

HE'S OLD NEWS! WHY IS ROBBIE STILL WASTING INK ON HIM?

LIGHT'S STILL ON IN ROBBIE'S OFFICE!

MAYBE I CAN ASK HIM ABOUT THAT NOW!

EDITOR IN CHIEF

YOU'RE WORKING LATE TONIGHT. EVERYTHING OKAY?

HI, JONAH! GUESS I WAS A LITTLE TOO PREOCCUPIED TO NOTICE THE TIME.

WHAT'S UP?

IT'S THIS HOBGOBLIN BUSINESS--SOMETHING DOESN'T SMELL RIGHT ABOUT IT!

LIKE WHAT? THE POLICE ALREADY HAVE HIM IN CUSTODY!

IT'S THAT *THOMPSON* KID!

YES, THEY'VE BUILT A PRETTY CONVINCING CASE AGAINST HIM... ALMOST *TOO* CONVINCING!

I JUST KEEP STARING AT THESE PICTURES WHICH WERE TAKEN ON THE DAY HE WAS CAPTURED, AND... *HEY!!*

WHAT IS IT, ROBBIE? WHAT'S WRONG?

THE ANSWER'S BEEN RIGHT HERE ALL ALONG!

THESE PICTURES MAY PROVE THAT FLASH THOMPSON IS *NOT* THE HOBGOBLIN!

AND, BACK AT CONEY ISLAND PARK...

THBOOM!

SANDMAN! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YER STUPID TRICKS!

I'M GONNA PULVERIZE YA!

RHINO, WAIT! REMEMBER HIS POWER--!

DON'T WORRY, HYDRO-MAN! I'LL BE HAPPY TA REMIND HIM OF IT--

-- JUST AS SOON AS I RE-SHAPE MY BODY INTA A ROCK-HARD TANK!

STAND ASIDE, KIDDIES! I'M GONNA CRUSH THIS CORNY COSTUMED CLOWN!

DON'T MAKE FUN'A ME!

THE ONLY THING I HATE MORE'N LOOKIN' LIKE A HUMAN RHINO IS PEOPLE WHO MAKE FUN'A ME!

PWOOM!

I DID IT!

I SMASHED HIM INTA A LISELESS CLOUD OF SAND!

THAT YOU DID, PAL!

IT'S NOW UP TO THE SPEED DEMON TO KEEP HIM THAT WAY!

BY RUNNING IN A CIRCLE AT SUPER SPEED, I CAN CREATE A WIND TUNNEL THAT WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO RE-FORM HIMSELF!

YAAAGH!!

BEETLE! DID YOU HEAR THAT AWFUL SCREAM?

HOPE IT WASN'T ONE OF OUR GUYS!

FORGET IT, BOOMERANG! NOTHING WE COULD DO ABOUT IT ANYWAY!

WE WERE HIRED TO TERMINATE SILVER SABLE!

OUR REPUTATIONS ARE RIDING ON THIS JOB!

WE CAN'T LET ANYTHING DISTRACT US FROM IT!

WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW! HOW YOU FEELING?

I'VE BEEN BETTER!

I'VE GOT A PLAN! YOU STAY HERE, AND I'LL MAKE SURE THOSE TWO JOKERS DON'T COME BACK THIS WAY!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING?

YOU'RE GOING BACK FOR THE SANDMAN! WHY?

HE'S IN TROUBLE!

WHY SHOULD THAT CONCERN YOU?

I CAN'T DESERT HIM AFTER THE WAY HE HELPED US!

HE'S NOT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

THINK ABOUT YOURSELF! YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME BECAUSE YOU NEED THE MONEY!

MAYBE SO...

BUT, I CAN'T LET THAT STOP ME FROM DOING WHAT'S RIGHT!

STUPID DUMB AMATEUR! HE'S BOUND TO GET HIM-SELF KILLED!

RIGHT ANKLE'S NOT TOO BAD!

LEFT ONE NEEDS A SPLINT, THOUGH!

--I'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR WRAP-ING IT.

÷UGNN÷ IT'S REAL PAINFUL, BUT, AT LEAST FUNCTION-AL!

I JUST HOPE SPIDER-MAN CAN HOLD OUT UNTIL I ARRIVE!

I DON'T WANT HIM DYING ON ME!

I'D BE HELD RESPONSIBLE, AND HIS HEIRS WOULD CERTAINLY SUE!

ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

YOU CAN'T GIVE UP, FLASH! AS YOUR LAWYER, I HONESTLY BELIEVE--

DANGER HI VOLTAGE

SAVE THE PHONEY OPTIMISM FOR THE COURTROOM, SHARON! I AIN'T BUYING IT!

WE MAY BOTH KNOW THAT THE REAL HOBGOBLIN FRAMED ME TO TAKE THIS FALL--

--BUT THE POLICE STILL HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE THEY NEED TO HANG ME!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER, ANYWAY?

I'M A NOTHING--A NOBODY! JUST LOOK AT THE WAY I'VE MANAGED TO SCREW UP MY OWN LIFE--AND THE LIVES OF EVERYONE AROUND ME!

MAYBE I'D BE BETTER OFF IN JAIL!

STOP IT, THOMPSON! I DON'T WANT YOU WALKING INTO A COURTROOM WITH THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE!

I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE THIS CASE!

I HATE LOSING! IT MAKES ME LOOK BAD!

BWOOM!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

WEE-EEEE

SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION!

HEY! WHAT'S WITH ALL THAT COMMOTION DOWN THE HALL?!

STOP THAT LUNATIC! HE BLASTED A HOLE THROUGH THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING!

I INTEND TO DO A LOT MORE DAMAGE THAN THAT, MY FRIEND!

THERE! THAT GAS GRENADE SHOULD KEEP YOU BUSY FOR THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS!

I HEAR OTHER GUARDS RACING TOWARD ME!

GOOD! I WANT PLENTY OF PEOPLE TO SEE ME!

AFTER ALL, I'M ONLY DOING THIS FOR PUBLICITY!

PWAM!

YOU! HOBGOBLIN! YOU'RE THE ONE I WANT!

M-ME?!

MOVE AWAY FROM THOSE BARS!

HURRY! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!

B-ZAT!

I'M YOUR TICKET TO FREEDOM!

DON'T GO WITH HIM, FLASH! IT'LL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE - UNN-

SHUT UP, WOMAN!

SHARON!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT GAME YOU'RE PLAYING, MISTER, BUT IF YOU'VE HURT HER--!

IS THIS THE THANKS I GET FOR SPRINGING YOU?

WHY DID THIS FOOL ATTACK ME?

DOESN'T HE WANT TO BE RESCUED?!

BWOOM!

CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW! I'VE ALREADY INVESTED TOO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT TO COME AWAY EMPTY!

DANGER
HI VOLTAGE

I JUST HOPE WE CAN SORT EVERYTHING OUT LATER!

BRINGGG!

PHONE CALL, BOSS!

THANK YOU, MR. JOHNSTON.

YES, THIS IS THE *ROSE*.

REALLY? THAT'S VERY INTERESTING. THANK YOU FOR CALLING.

SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

INDEED! THAT WAS ONE OF MY INFORMANTS ON THE POLICE FORCE WITH A BIT OF NEWS WHICH YOU, MY FRIEND, WILL FIND OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

NOT TEN MINUTES AGO, JACK O'LANTERN BROKE FLASH THOMPSON OUT OF JAIL.

WHAT?!

THAT INTERFERING FOOL! HE'S RUINED EVERYTHING!

I WAS USING THOMPSON TO KEEP THE POLICE OCCUPIED WHILE THE TWO OF US CONTINUED TO EXPAND OUR CRIMINAL EMPIRE!

MY DEAR HOBGOBLIN, PERHAPS WE CAN USE THIS TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

HOW?

WHAT IF THOMPSON WERE *KILLED* BEFORE HE COULD BE RECAPTURED?

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, ROSE! YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING!

THE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE CONVINCED THAT THE HOBGOBLIN WAS DEAD!

THE HEAT WILL BE PERMANENTLY OFF ME!

AND, THIS WILL ALSO GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH THAT UPSTART JACK O'LANTERN A LESSON--

--THAT HE'LL *NEVER* RECOVER FROM!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

MEANWHILE...

SO! YA FINALLY MANAGED TO PULL YERSELF TOGETHER!

IT'S ABOUT TIME! I'VE BEEN ACHIN' TO LAY INTO YA MYSELF!

YA SHOULDA LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE, HYDRO-MAN!

YA JUST AIN'T IN MY LEAGUE!

SAYS WHO?! WE'VE BEEN FIGHTIN' EVER SINCE WE FIRST MET!

MAYBE IT'S TIME WE FINALLY FOUND OUT WHO'S STRONGER--

--THE OCEAN, OR THE SAND IT POUNDS UPON?!

I GOT A HUNCH YA AIN'T GONNA LIKE THE ANSWER!

PWAM!

FW

AK!

I HEARD YA QUIT BEIN' THE SANDMAN!

WHY'D YA CHOOSE TONIGHT FOR YER COMEBACK?!

IT'S BECAUSE I SAW YOU AGAIN!

THE TWO OF US ARE REAL SIMILAR!

YER LIKE A DARK, UGLY TWIN!

SEEING YOU AGAIN IS LIKE LOOKING IN A BROKEN, DISTORTED MIRROR!

PWOM!

UGNN

YOU REMIND ME A THE WAY I USED TA BE...BITTER, BRUTAL, UNCARING!

PWAP! PWAP! PWAP!

I HATE REMEMBERIN' THE OLD ME!

I HATE YOU FOR MAKIN' ME REMEMBER!

YER JUST LUCKY I CHANGED!

OTHERWISE, YA WOULDN'T STILL BE BREATHIN'!

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

I DON'T DARE TACKLE THE SANDMAN ALONE!

PLEASE SEE TO OUR GUEST'S COMFORT!

HE MAY NOT BE IN A VERY GOOD HUMOR WHEN HE AWAKES!

NO SWEAT, BOSS! I'LL KEEP A SHARP EYE ON HIM!

I WISH I KNEW WHAT GAME HOBGOBLIN'S PLAYING!

WHY DIDN'T HE WANT TO BE RESCUED?

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE TURNED STATE'S EVIDENCE?

WHAT'S HE AFRAID OF?

JACK O'LANTERN!!

YOU ARE A STUPID, INTERFERING, BUMBLING BUFFOON!

THE HOBGOBLIN?!

BUT, HOW--?!?

HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED THE TRUTH?

YOU FREED THE WRONG MAN!

THOMPSON WAS MERELY A PAWN IN A MUCH LARGER GAME--WHICH YOU HAVE RUINED!

NO NEED TO GET SO UPSET!

IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE!

ONE WHICH WILL PROVE VERY INCONVENIENT TO ME--AND *FATAL* TO YOU!

HE'S MOVING SO FAST ON THAT BLASTED *POGO PLATFORM*--RICHOCHETING OFF WALLS AND CEILING--THAT I CAN'T HIT HIM!

CONEY ISLAND...

KWOOM!

SABLE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU'RE BADLY INJURED!

I DON'T NEED ANY EXCUSES FOR FAILURE, SPIDER-MAN! MY GOAL IS SURVIVAL!

YOU'VE FOUGHT BOOMERANG AND THE BEETLE BEFORE! ANY TIPS?

KNOCK OUT THE BEETLE'S ANTENNAE! THEY CONTROL HIS POWER SYSTEMS!

THANKS!

BARELY DODGED BOOMERANG'S LAST MISSILE!

=UGNN= ALL THIS LEAPING ABOUT ISN'T DOING MY ANKLES ANY GOOD! THE PAIN IS INCREDIBLE, BUT--

"--I HAD TO GET INTO THE PROPER POSITION TO THROW MY *CHAIS!*"

B-ZAPP!

IMPRESSIVE, WOMAN!

YOU'VE MANAGED TO DENY ME THE USE OF MY ELECTRO-BLASTS!

A PITY THAT ISN'T MY ONLY WEAPON!

I RECENTLY RE-DESIGNED MY BATTLE SUIT SO THAT MY STRENGTH BOOSTERS WEREN'T CONNECTED TO MY OTHER POWER SYSTEMS!

YOUR DEATH WILL BE ALL THE MORE PAINFUL NOW!

RIPPP!

PRWOOM!!!

MIDTOWN...

WHAT THE--?!

MY PLAYMATE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I'VE BEEN FAKING UNCONSCIOUSNESS FOR THE PAST FEW MOMENTS!

DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, OR WHY I WAS KIDNAPED--

KWOKK!

--BUT I'M SURE I AIN'T GONNA LIKE THE ANSWERS!

GOT TO MOVE!

I'D REALLY HATE TO RUN INTO PUMPKIN-PUSS AGAIN!

THIS HAT AND COAT I FOUND IN THE ROOM MAY COME IN HANDY!

HAD TO MOVE THE FIGHT OUTDOORS WHERE I HAD MORE ROOM TO MANEUVER!

HOBGOBLIN, YOU'RE TAKING THIS ALL MUCH TOO PERSONALLY!

AM I?

YOU DON'T FOOL ME, JACK O'LANTERN!

YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO REPLACE ME IN THE UNDERWORLD --TO MUSCLE IN ON MY OPERATIONS--EVER SINCE YOU HEARD ABOUT MY ALLEGED ARREST!

THE FOOL DOESN'T REALIZE THAT THIS TRIGGER ACTIVATES A COMPUTERIZED BARRAGE OF ELECTRO-BLASTS!

HE'S ALMOST IN POSITION--!

NOW!!

PZAP!

PZAP!

PZAP!

=UGNN=

GOTCHA!!
YOU WERE SO BUSY WITH SILVER SABLE THAT YOU FORGOT ALL ABOUT ME!
UFF
YOU MUST HAVE ONE HECK OF AN EXCEDRIN HEADACHE AFTER THE WAY SHE SHATTERED YOUR ANTENNAE!
YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER AFTER A LONG NAP!
THERE! THAT SHOULD HELP YOU SLEEP!
THUNKK!!
NIGHTY-NIGHT, BEETLE! THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF!
UH-OH! MY TRUSTY SPIDER SENSE IS WARNING ME OF DANGER FROM ABOVE!
BWOOM!!
NICE TRY, BOOMERANG! TOO BAD YOU MISSED!
ONE OF MY BOOMERANGS IS BOUND TO GET YOU EVENTU-ALLY, WEB-SWINGER!
EVEN YOU CAN'T MAINTAIN THIS PACE FOREVER!
HE'S RIGHT! I'M ALREADY STARTING TO TIRE!
UGNN THE SANDMAN REALLY WASTED ME!
GOTTA PICK MY TARGETS MORE CAREFULLY FROM NOW ON!
I'LL STICK TO THE EASIER ONES, LIKE THAT WOMAN--!
I'VE GOT YOU NOW, SPIDER-MAN!
THWIPP
HEY!!
DO YOU?
AND I THOUGHT I HAD YOU!
HA! THIS IS EVEN EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
THE WOMAN DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THAT I USED YOUR OWN WEAPON TO YANK YOU TOWARD ME!
C-CAN'T BREATHE! I'M DROWNING--!

HA! HA! HA!
YOU'RE FINISHED, JACK O'LANTERN!
'THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK--!
BAROOM!!
ARRGHH!!
STUNNED BY THE UNEXPECTED CONCUSSION BOMB, HOBGOBLIN MOMENTARILY LOSES CONTROL OF HIS BAT-GLIDER, AND...
KBWASH!
=UNN= DAZED! NEED TIME TO RECOVER!
H-HOW...DID YOU EVER SURVIVE MY COMPUTERIZED BARRAGE?
I WEAR THIS OUTLANDISH COSTUME FOR A HOST OF REASONS!
ONE IS THAT IT'S HEAVILY ARMORED!
SO MUCH FOR BRAVADO! I THINK HIS LAST ONSLAUGHT SHATTERED A FEW OF MY RIBS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
THERE'S NOTHING TO GAIN BY FURTHER BATTLE, HOBGOBLIN! I'M LEAVING!
YOU CAN HAVE FLASH THOMPSON IF YOU WANT HIM!
FAREWELL FOR NOW! I'M CERTAIN OUR PATHS ARE DESTINED TO CROSS IN THE FUTURE!
YES, BUT ONLY ONE OF US WILL SURVIVE THE NEXT ENCOUNTER!

SILVER--!

HYDRO-MAN'S KILLING HER, AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN REACH HER IN TIME!

UNLESS--!

HANG LOOSE, COWBOY! YOU'RE GOING FOR A RIDE!

MUST AIM HIM PERFECTLY! I WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE!

OH, NO! THE RHINO'S BEARING DOWN ON ME!

SILVER WILL DIE IF I LEAP TO SAFETY NOW!

GOTTA STAND MY GROUND UNTIL I CAN RELEASE BOOMERANG AT THE PROPER ANGLE--

"--EVEN IF IT MEANS TAKING A HIT!"

KWAM!

WHAT THE--?!

HYDRO'S MOMENTARILY DISTRACTED!

NOW'S MY CHANCE--!

BREAKING FREE, THE DARING BOUNTY-HUNTER RACES INTO A NEARBY AMUSEMENT PARK BUILDING, DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR ANY-THING SHE CAN USE AS A WEAPON...

THIS FIRE EXTINGUISH-ER MAY DO THE TRICK!

PLOOSH!

YEOW! THAT FOAM IS MIXING INTA ME! BE-COMIN' A PART OF ME!

IT'S MAKIN' ME FEEL QUEASY! NAUSEOUS!

ULPP I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK!

H-HE REALLY CLOBBERED ME! HEAD'S POUNDING! VISION'S CLOUDED!

I ALWAYS DREAM'A THIS DAY, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE HELPLESS! *BEATEN!*

I'M REALLY GOING TO ENJOY POUNDING YA INTA MEAT SAUCE...*HEY!!*

BTOOM!

HOW'D I MISS YA? YER BARELY ALIVE! CAN'T EVEN STAND STRAIGHT!

BUT, THOUGH ANY OTHER MAN WOULD HAVE LONG SINCE CRUMBLED IN DEFEAT, SPIDER-MAN STRIKES BACK!

TEETERING ON THE EDGE OF CONSCIOUSNESS, HE FIGHTS ON AND **ON**, REFUSING TO SURRENDER!

SUCH IS THE SPIRIT WHICH FLARES WITHIN HIM!

SUCH IS HIS WILL TO SURVIVE!

MOVING INSTINCTIVELY, GUIDED BY HIS UNCANNY SPIDER-SENSE, HE DROWNS HIS FOE IN A SEA OF UNRELENTING FURY!

CAN'T ANYTHING STOP THAT GUY?

SPIDER-MAN'S OUT ON HIS FEET--FIGHTING ON GUTS ALONE--AND HE'S STILL KILLING THE RHINO!

I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE ...*HEY!* WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE GROUND?

IT'S *MOVING*... AS IF IT WERE ALIVE!

WHATSAMATTER, PAL? DID YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT THE *SANDMAN*?

SPIDER-MAN DIDN'T CUT OUT ON ME, SO I COULDN'T ON HIM!

OH, *NO!* *NO!!*

NEARBY, AT THAT EXACT MOMENT...

STOP IT! LEAVE THE RHINO ALONE! I'M WARNING YOU--!

CONVERTING HIS ENTIRE BODY INTO A MASSIVE WAVE, HYDRO-MAN SMASHES SPIDER-MAN AWAY FROM THE FALLEN RHINO...

S-SILVER, LOOK OUT--!

FORGET ABOUT ME, SPIDER-MAN!

GET BACK ON YOUR FEET! WE HAVE TO REGROUP--*NOW!!* BEFORE THEY CAN RENEW THEIR ATTACK!

THIS IS INSANE! WE'VE HIT THEM WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT, AND THEY KEEP COMING BACK!

WE'D BETTER SPLIT BEFORE THEY END UP KILLING *US!* WE'RE ALREADY HALF-CRIPPLED!

CAN YOU CREATE A FINAL DISTRACTION?

I CAN TRY!

KBWAM!

ONE THING'S FOR SURE-- I DON'T WANNA TANGLE WITH SPIDER-MAN NO MORE!

I'VE GOT SPEED DEMON!

THIS HAS BEEN A MAJOR SET-BACK, BUT THE SINISTER SYNDICATE WILL RETURN!

GOOD RIDDANCE! I AIN'T SORRY TO SEE THEM LEAVE!

I AM! I DON'T MAKE MONEY WHEN THE BAD GUYS GET AWAY...

SOMETHING WRONG, LADY? ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD!

WHAT HAPPENED--?!

H-HE...COLLAPSED ...JUST AS SOON AS THE FIGHT ENDED!

MANY MINUTES LATER...

FEELING ANY BETTER? YOU WERE REALLY LAID OUT!

NOTHING A CASELOAD OF EXTRA-STRENGTH ASPIRIN, AND A HEAD TRANSPLANT COULDN'T CURE!

SILVER, ABOUT THAT MONEY YOU OWE ME...

WHAT MONEY? YOU *QUIT*, REMEMBER?

B-BUT--

MR. SANDMAN, I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR ABILITIES, AND I OFTEN EMPLOY FREELANCE OPERATIVES...

REALLY? TELL ME MORE

AND SO...

THOSE TWO HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME! MAY AS WELL HEAD HOME!

THWIPP

WHAT A NIGHT! I RISKED MY NECK FOR NOTHING!

DIDN'T EARN A DIME FOR FLASH THOMPSON'S LEGAL FEES, AND...

ARRGHH!

M-MY HEAD--! THE PAIN IS GETTING WORSE, INSTEAD OF BETTER! *MUCH WORSE!*

C-CAN'T GO ON! MUST REST!

S-SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRY TO SHRUG OFF A HEAD INJURY!

T-THE RHINO MUST HAVE BELTED ME A LOT HARDER THAN I THOUGHT!

W-WHAT IF HE CAUSED SOME KIND OF PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE?

WHA--WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

OH, NO! EVERYTHING'S GETTING *DARK*...AND THE WHOLE WORLD'S SPINNING!

MEANWHILE...

NO SIGN OF PURSUIT!

I'M SAFE FOR NOW!

SAFE? THAT'S A REAL LAUGH!

THE AUTHORITIES ARE OUT HUNTING ME--AND GUYS LIKE THE *HOBGOBLIN* AND *JACK O'LANTERN* ARE FIGHTIN' OVER THE RIGHT TO KILL ME!

EVERYONE'S AGAINST ME! EVERY FACE I SEE--EVERY CORNER I TURN--COULD BE MY LAST!

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? CAN'T EVEN TURN MYSELF OVER TO THE POLICE! THEY'D NEVER BELIEVE I WAS AN UNWILLING PARTICIPANT IN TONIGHT'S JAILBREAK!

THEY'D THROW AWAY THE KEY ON ME!

I USED TO ADMIRE SPIDER-MAN, BUT I CAN'T EVEN DEPEND ON HIM FOR HELP!

HE'S THE GUY WHO PUT ME IN JAIL IN THE FIRST PLACE!

THERE'S NO PLACE I CAN GO! NO ONE I CAN TRUST! I'M ALL ALONE!

BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP! I GOTTA FIND A WAY OUTTA THIS MESS, AND *I WILL!!*

SOMEHOW...

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT ISSUE ○ *FLASH THOMPSON'S ON THE RUN! ROBBIE ROBERTSON HAS A* ○ *PERSONAL CRISIS! AND THOUGH SEVERELY INJURED, SPIDEY MUST FACE...*

"THE FURY OF X-FACTOR!"

PLUS! EVEN MORE SURPRISES!

MARVEL®

© 1987 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC.

TM

128
AUG
02199

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

SILVER SABLE LAUNCHES A SPIDER HUNT!

PLUS: THE BLACK CAT IN HER NEW COSTUME!

--AND A CAMEO APPEARANCE BY DAREDEVIL THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

"SPIDER HUNT"

PETER DAVID
WRITER

ALAN KUPPERBERG
ARTIST

RICK PARKER
LETTERER

BOB SHAREN
COLORIST

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THAT NO-GOOD BRITISH FINK!

I'LL RIP HIS HEART OUT AND SERVE IT TO HIM FOR BREAKFAST!

FELICIA, CALM DOWN!

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, PETER PARKER, MISTER SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. YOU WEREN'T PLAYED FOR A SUCKER BY THE FOREIGNER!

BUT WHEN FELICIA HARDY, THE BLACK CAT, IS JERKED AROUND, SHE DOESN'T GET MAD, SHE GETS EVEN!

I KNEW YOU'D BE UPSET, FELICIA, BUT I *HAD* TO TELL YOU.

IT'S JUST SO *IRONIC*. HERE I'D BEEN SO THANKFUL TO EVERYTHING THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER RECENTLY...

AND THEN IT TURNS OUT THAT IT'S ALL BEEN MASTERMINDED BY SOMEONE I *THOUGHT* WAS MY FRIEND -- THE *FOREIGNER*.

"WHEN MY APARTMENT WAS BLOWN UP TWO WEEKS AGO, WE BOTH THOUGHT IT WAS THE WORK OF SOME ENEMY OF OURS, TRYING TO GET REVENGE AT YOU THROUGH *ME*, YOUR FORMER GIRLFRIEND.

"I WAS SO SMUG ABOUT THAT BECAUSE I WAS CONVINCED THAT IT HAD *BACKFIRED*. THAT BLAST WOUND UP BRINGING US BACK TOGETHER, AND ENDED UP WITH MY MOVING INTO YOUR APARTMENT HERE.

"TOGETHER AGAIN, WE TRIED TO FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE -- INFORMATION FREELY GIVEN BY A CHARMING MAN I'D MET WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE FOREIGNER.

"ALTHOUGH HE MAINTAINED THAT HE WAS AN HONEST BUSINESSMAN, AN IMPORTER, HE SAID THAT HE'D BEEN CONTACTED BY A GUY NAMED THE *BLAZE* WHO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BLAST. YOU WERE SUSPICIOUS, PETER, BUT, STUPID ME, I *TRUSTED* HIM.

"AND, SURE ENOUGH, BLAZE WAS RIGHT WHERE FOREIGNER SAID HE'D BE. WE CLEANED THAT MURDERER'S CLOCK AND GAVE HIM TO THE COPS.

"I SHOULD'VE *KNOWN* IT WAS TOO PAT. BECAUSE NOW YOU'VE FOUND OUT THAT THE FOREIGNER IS REALLY A MASTER ASSASSIN...

"THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF NED LEEDS, A.K.A. THE HOBGOBLIN. WHICH MEANS HE PROBABLY SET UP *EVERYTHING*. BUT *WHY?*

"I BET THE KINGPIN KNOWS, BUT I'LL BE DARNED IF I GO TO *HIM* FOR HELP AGAIN. NOT AFTER WHAT HE'S DONE TO ME IN THE PAST."

I'LL TELL YOU, IT LOOKS LIKE I FINISHED REDESIGNING MY COSTUME JUST IN TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS BUTT-KICKING.

WHAT'S THE PLAN, MAN-OF-MINE?

WHAT MAKES SENSE TO *ME* IS THAT YOU TRY AND TRACK DOWN WHERE THE FOREIGNER IS HIDING, SINCE HE'S VANISHED FROM HIS PREVIOUS HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT A TRACE.

I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW *HOW* HE PULLED *THAT*.

AND WHAT WILL *YOU* BE UP TO, MY WEBBED WONDER?

FINDING OUT WHO KILLED THE BLAZE WHILE HE WAS IN POLICE CUSTODY, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE COPS CLAIM THAT IT WAS *ME*.

IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF THE *FOREIGNER* WERE BEHIND IT, AND SINCE HE MURDERED NED LEEDS, THAT MAKES IT *DOUBLY* PERSONAL.

YOU SURE WE SHOULDN'T STICK *TOGETHER* ON THIS?

POSITIVE.

THWIPP!

FUNNY. YOU USED TO BE A BURGLAR BEFORE YOU WENT STRAIGHT AND WERE PARDONED. AND NOW THE COPS ARE AFTER *ME*.

SEE YOU TONIGHT.

RIGHT. SEE YOU.

GOOD. HE'S *GONE*. NOW TO USE HIS DARKROOM TO DEVELOP THIS FILM.

I HAVE A FEELING I'LL BE NEEDING IT SOONER THAN I THOUGHT.

"MR. JAMESON, WELCOME TO THE SYMKANIAN EMBASSY. MISS SABLE IS EXPECTING YOU DOWN IN HER GYM."

GOOD OF YOU TO SEE ME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, MISS SABLE.

COME, COME, MR. JAMESON, NO FALSE *MODESTY*. WHEN THE PUBLISHER OF THE *DAILY BUGLE* WANTS TO MEET WITH ONE, ONE *MAKES* THE TIME.

TRUE. HOW TRUE.

GIVE ME A MOMENT TO BEGIN MY WORKOUT AND THEN WE'LL TALK IN DETAIL. AND PLEASE, CALL ME *SILVER*.

ONLY IF YOU'LL CALL ME JO...

...NAH?

GOOD LORD, SHE MOVES LIKE COILED LIGHTNING. THOSE MEN ARE IN SLOW MOTION COMPARED TO HER.

WORKOUT? SHE'S NOT EVEN BREAKING *SWEAT*.

NOW, JONAH. WHY DO YOU WANT TO HIRE SABLE INTERNATIONAL?

I *HATE* THIS JOB.

I WANT YOUR PEOPLE TO HUNT DOWN SPIDER-MAN. BRING THAT WEBBED WEASEL TO JUSTICE.

WHAM

NOW IS THE *PERFECT* TIME. I'VE BEEN CLAIMING FOR YEARS THAT HE'S A MENACE. BUT MINE WAS A LONE VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS.

KWAK

NOW THAT HE'S WANTED FOR MURDER, IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT MY HAND BE THE ONE WHICH DRAGS HIM TO HIS JUST REWARD.

BUMF

I *REALLY* HATE THIS JOB.

OY.

LET'S CUT THE HORSE-HOCKEY, SHALL WE, JONAH?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR *YOU*? I MEAN, THE POLICE WOULD NAIL HIM *EVENTUALLY*.

ALL RIGHT, SILVER. I'LL BE BLUNT. SPIDER-MAN'S BEEN WANTED FOR ALL *SORTS* OF CRIMES IN THE PAST AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

AND *EVERY* DAD-BLASTED TIME, BEFORE HE CAN BE ARRESTED AND UNMASKED, SOMETHING HAPPENS AND IT TURNS OUT HE'S *INNOCENT*.

THIS TIME I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT HE'S NAILED TO THE WALL BEFORE HE MANAGES TO WEASEL HIS WAY OUT OF IT.

CAN YOU *DO* IT?

OF *COURSE* I CAN. THE QUESTION IS, DO I *WANT* TO?

SPIDER-MAN'S A VALUABLE COMMODITY. I'VE EVEN TRIED TO RECRUIT HIM IN THE PAST.

HE'S ALWAYS CLAIMED HE PREFERS HIS INDEPENDENCE, HIS OWN PERSONAL INTEGRITY. *FOOLISHNESS*.

STILL, HE *COULD* BE USEFUL IN THE FUTURE. DO I WANT TO RUIN THAT POTENTIAL?

I'LL GIVE YOU $500,000.

ONE MILLION. THAT'S NON-NEGOTIABLE.

GULP DONE.

DONE.

AND I HAVE *JUST* THE MAN FOR THE JOB.

THE LIBRARY OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.

THESE ARE TWO STUDENTS, BARRY AND ASHLEY. THEY HAD THEIR **FIRST** RUN-IN WITH SPIDER-MAN SOME MONTHS AGO, WHEN THEY CREATED A MYTHICAL VILLAIN NAMED THE BLAZE...

...FOR THE SINGLE AND SOLE REASON OF HARRASSING SPIDER-MAN.

THEY'RE ABOUT TO HAVE THEIR **SECOND** RUN-IN.

HUH?

...SPUH...

...SPUH...

THWIPP!

SPIDER-MAN. SAY IT *LOUD* AND SAY IT *PROUD.*

RUN! HE'S GOING TO MURDER *US* NOW!

HOLD IT, GUYS! WE GOTTA TALK!

A-ABOUT WHAT?

DON'T GET CUTE OR I'LL WEB MORE THAN YOUR FEET. YOU'RE THE CLOWNS WHO CREATED THE BLAZE.

YOU SOLD THE COSTUME AND GEAR TO FOREIGNER, DIDN'T YOU?

IN A *RECORD* STORE? SPIDER-MAN, HONEST, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *TALKING* ABOUT!

C'MON. WHAT ARE YOUR CONTACTS? WHERE CAN I FIND *FOREIGNER?*

ASHLEY AND I DESTROYED THE BLAZE COSTUME AND EQUIPMENT *AGES* AGO. *REALLY!* THIS NEW BLAZE WAS A COMPLETE SHOCK TO US!

YOU GUYS ON THE *LEVEL* HERE?

REALLY! WE TOOK YOUR EARLIER WARNINGS TO HEART.

ABSOLUTELY. NO MORE STUNTS JUST TO SEE IF WE CAN GET AWAY WITH THEM. WE'RE CONCENTRATING ON OUR STUDIES.

ALL RIGHT. YOU GUYS SOUND TOO *SCARED* TO BE LYING. BUT YOU BETTER BE WATCHING YOUR STEP.

RE-MEMBER, NO MORE STUPID COLLEGE PRANKS.

HE'S GONE. LET'S SLIDE THE TABLE OVER HERE UNTIL THE WEBBING WEARS OFF SO WE CAN KEEP WORKING.

GOOD IDEA. NOW THEN, ONCE WE GET THE COUNTERFEIT, I HAVE SEVERAL WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD *SUBSTITUTE* IT FOR THE *REAL* MONA LISA...

THE OLD PARKER LUCK. I SUPPOSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO EASY IF THEY HAD--

HALT!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! DON'T MOVE OR WE'LL OPEN FIRE.

OH, NO!

LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE ONLY TRYING TO DO YOUR JOBS--

--BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU *MISS* ME... AND YOU *WILL*. BULLET GOES THROUGH A WINDOW AND KILLS SOME POOR DEVIL?

BLAST.

AND *I'M* NOT THREATENING. I'M *LEAVING*. SEE YA.

BESIDES, I WATCH "CAGNEY AND LACEY." YOU'RE ONLY SUPPOSED TO USE DEADLY FORCE IF YOU'RE THREATENED.

SPIDER-MAN PROCEEDING NORTH ON SIXTH AVENUE.

ARE YOU IN PURSUIT, UNIT FIVE?

OH, *RIGHT*. I'LL WHIP OUT MY WEBBING AND GET RIGHT ON IT.

I DON'T *BELIEVE* IT!

NY CITY POLICE 12TH PRECINCT

THEY HAD SPIDER-MAN DEAD IN THEIR SIGHTS AND THEY DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO BRING HIM *DOWN!*

WHAT'RE THEY *TEACH-ING* IN THE ACADEMY THESE DAYS? *IDIOCY?*

DO I HAVE TO DO *EVERYTHING* AROUND HERE? BE MATERIAL WITNESS, ARRESTING OFFICER, EVERY-THING?

CHRIS KEATING'S REALLY BEEN ON *EDGE* LATELY.

CAN'T *BLAME* HIM, I GUESS. IF SPIDER-MAN KNOCKED ME OUT AND MURDERED A PRISONER UNDER *MY* CARE I'D HARDLY BE IN A GREAT MOOD, EITHER.

WELL, EVEN A FIFTEEN-YEAR VETERAN OFFICER LIKE KEATING CAN BE HER-- HUH?

DETEC-TECTIVE T-T-*TORK*?

I'M ST-STAN CARTER.

THE STAN CARTER? THE ONE WHO--

KILLED CAPTAIN JEAN DEWOLFF.

I'M AFRAID S-S-SO.

BUT I'M FEELING *MUCH* B-BETTER NOW.

WHAT I D-DID ST-STILL ***HORRIFIES*** ME. PLEASE UNDER-ST-STAND... I WASN'T ***MYSELF***...

I'M INSTITU-TU-TIONALIZED, YOU KNOW. BUT MY D-DOCTORS FEEL CONTROLLED FIELD-TRIPS SUCH AS THIS CAN B-B-BE ***HELPFUL***.

THESE GENTLEMEN ARE FROM THE ***HOSPITAL***. MAKE SURE I B-B-BEHAVE MYSELF.

YEAH, FINE. LOOK, CARTER, IS THERE A ***POINT*** TO THIS? I'M BUSY.

I KNOW. ***SP-SPIDER-MAN INVESTIGATION.*** TH-TH-THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

CAME T-TO T-TELL YOU. WHOLE CASE MAKES NO S-SENSE.

HERE'S WH-WHY.

SHORTLY...

WHAT ***HAPPENED*** TO THAT GUY? STUTTERING, LIMPING... HE EVEN LOOKED IN PAIN WHEN TORK SHOOK HIS HAND.

I'M ***GLAD*** HE'S IN PAIN. HE DESERVES WHATEVER HE GETS. ***I*** JUST CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SHOOK HIS HAND, TORK.

REFLEX, OKAY?

WHAT'D HE WANT? IS HE STILL ***CRAZY***?

AS A LOON. THAT BURNED-OUT NUT THINKS HE'S STILL A ***COP***. TRIED TO CONVINCE ME SPIDER-MAN ***DIDN'T*** KILL BLAZE.

WELL, I DON'T NEED HELP FROM ***ANYBODY*** TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION--

--LEAST OF ALL FROM THE SCUM WHO MURDERED ***JEAN DEWOLFF***.

WISH I KNEW WHAT TO DO NOW. THOSE TWO KIDS WERE THE ONLY ANGLE ON BLAZE I HAD. NOW WH--

SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING! THERE'S *DANGER.*

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN!

DAREDEVIL!

I'M GONNA GRAB THAT BILLY-CLUB OF YOURS AND--

NOW, NOW...

WOULDN'T HIT A BLIND MAN WEARING GLASSES, WOULD YOU?

CUTE.

I THOUGHT YOU DITCHED THE BLIND SPECS FOR GOOD.

I KEEP THEM AROUND FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS. CAN WE CHAT?

GEE, I WONDER WHAT. ABOUT?

LOOK, SPIDER-MAN, I KNOW YOU PRIDE YOURSELF ON BEING ABLE TO HANDLE THINGS SOLO. BUT YOU'RE IN *OVER* YOUR *HEAD.*

I'VE GOTTEN GOOD AT HOLDING MY BREATH.

NO JOKES. I ONLY WISH I WERE STILL AN ATTORNEY SO I COULD LEND A *HAND* INSTEAD OF A *FIST.* YOU NEED A LEGAL REP, MY FRIEND.

NOT THAT I'M SUGGESTING YOU TURN YOURSELF IN, SINCE I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T KILL HIM. BY THE WAY, *DID* YOU?

FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK, SINCE WITH THAT HYPER-HEARING OF YOURS, YOU CAN TELL WHETHER I'M *LYING.*

NO, I *DIDN'T* KILL THE BLAZE. *SATISFIED?*

YES. BUT YOU NEED MY *HELP.*

NO *OFFENSE,* MATT, BUT JUST THE OTHER DAY WE WERE SLUGGING IT OUT WHILE YOU WORE A *KINGPIN* DISGUISE.*

THAT WAS *THEN,* PETER, THIS IS NOW. THE POINT IS--

*SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #287.-J.

THE *POINT* IS THAT, WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, I'M NEVER 100% SURE I CAN TRUST YOU!

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING OUT OF THIS, I'VE GOT *ONE* WOMAN I CAN TRUST. I'LL DO *FINE* WITH HER.

IT'S *YOUR* CALL, PETER. I THINK A *LOT* OF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO START BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECK *SOON* THOUGH.

...SO IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, CALL ME.

CURIOUS. ONCE, WHEN I WAS ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK, I WOULD HAVE URGED HIM TO TURN HIMSELF OVER TO THE MERCIES OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM.

PETER AND I HAVE *BOTH* CHANGED, PERHAPS NEITHER OF US FOR THE *BETTER*.

WAS HE *RIGHT*? THIS WHOLE THING IS A FRAME ON A GRAND SCALE; OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

MAYBE I *SHOULD* TURN TO SOMEONE.

I'M STILL NOT WILD ABOUT DAREDEVIL...

BUT WHO *ELSE*? THE FANTASTIC FOUR? THE AVENGERS?

EITHER OF THEM IS JUST AS LIKELY TO DRAG ME TO THE COPS AS CLEAR ME.

MAYBE I *SHOULD* ASK DAREDEVIL TO HELP OUT.

NO. I'VE NEVER HAD TROUBLE HANDLING MYSELF *BEFORE*.

I'VE RE-DEDICATED MYSELF TO MY WALL-CRAWLING CAREER,* IF I CAN'T CLEAR MYSELF...

I'M NOT *WORTHY* OF THE NAME *SPIDER-MAN*.

*THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE AFTER AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #289. -- JIM.

OF COURSE, I *COULD* ALWAYS *CHANGE* MY NAME.

BUG-MAN? WONDER-WEBS?

THIS IS EPSILON SQUAD. WE'VE SPOTTED OUR TARGET.

REMIND SILVER SABLE WE GET A $5,000 BONUS FOR SPOTTING HIM FIRST. PREPARE TO ENGAGE...

MEANWHILE...

FINALLY THE PHONE'S STOPPED RINGING. I GUESS THE NEWS GUYS FOUND SOMETHING ELSE TO REPORT ON...

...NOW THAT I'VE BEEN CLEARED OF BEING THE HOBGOBLIN.

SO NOW THAT FLASH THOMPSON IS YESTERDAY'S NEWS, HE CAN WORRY ABOUT TODAY'S PROBLEMS...

...LIKE BETTY LEEDS. AND I'M NERVOUS AS A HIGH SCHOOL KID ABOUT CALLING HER.

SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO HELPED ME WHILE I WAS ON THE RUN. NOW WITH THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF HER HUSBAND, NED, SHE NEEDS ME MORE THAN EVER.

I JUST DON'T WANT TO SEEM LIKE A GHOUL, MOVING IN ON BETTY WHILE SHE'S STILL IN MOURNING, IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT.

I HAVE TO SHOW AS MUCH RESPECT FOR POOR NED AS POSSIBLE, EVEN IF I NEVER DID LIKE THE GUY.

FLASH! HOW NICE OF YOU TO CALL!

YOU KNOW, I JUST REMEMBERED... YOU WERE OVER HERE THE OTHER DAY AND THEN YOU HAD TO RUN OFF. FUNNY HOW THAT SLIPPED MY MIND.

I CAN'T CHAT TOO LONG, FLASH. I'M CLEANING UP FOR NED...

I'M EXPECTING HIM HOME ANYTIME NOW, AND HE'S SIMPLY A BEAR IF EVERYTHING ISN'T JUST SO.

I'LL TELL NED YOU CALLED. BRING SHA-SHAN OVER ONE NIGHT AND WE'LL PLAY BRIDGE.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, FLASH. ENJOY IT. BYE.

NURSE!!

GET ME MY CLOTHES! I'M *OUTTA* HERE!

MR. THOMPSON, YOU'RE NOT FULLY RECOVERED FROM YOUR INJURIES. GET BACK IN BED THIS *INSTANT.*

THE HECK I WILL. A WOMAN WHO MEANS A LOT TO ME IS ON HER WAY TO *LA-LA LAND.* SHE NEEDS ME.

MR. THOMPSON, LOOK HOW ***WEAK*** YOU ARE! YOU'RE AN ATHLETE. DO YOU THINK WE COULD RESTRAIN YOU AS WE ARE IF YOU WERE ***HEALTHY?***

I... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. I WON'T DO BETTY ANY GOOD IF I COLLAPSE IN THE STREET.

I KNOW. I'LL CALL PETER PARKER. I BET HE CAN HELP

AND...

ONLY ONE OTHER SHOT... I'VE GOT TO FIND CHRIS KEATING. HE'S THE ONE WHO SAID I KILLED BLAZE.

I KNOW THE GUY NEVER ***LIKED*** ME, BUT WHY WOULD HE--

SPIDER-MAN! HALT WHERE YOU ARE!

UH...

SPIDER-MAN'S MY COUSIN. I'M *BUG-MAN!*

I'LL GO GET COUSIN SPIDEY FOR YOU. YOU WAIT *RIIIIGHT* HERE.

STAY *ON* HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.

OH, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT *THAT.*

KRUMP!

THEY'RE ANGLING DOWN TO A ROOF. THAT'S GOOD.

IT'S ALWAYS A PAIN TO HAVE TO SAVE GUYS WHO ARE TRYING TO PUNCH MY TICKET.

ESPECIALLY WHEN I DON'T KNOW *WHY.*

SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE OUT-POWERED AND OUT-MANNED. GIVE UP NOW BEFORE WE'RE FORCED TO *INJURE* YOU.

NOW ISN'T THAT *NICE*? EVERYONE I FIGHT IS SO *WORRIED* ABOUT MY WELFARE.

THIS GUY WARNS ME, *THAT* GUY WARNS ME.

NOW ME, *I* DON'T WARN PEOPLE. THE WAY I FIGURE...

SOMEONE STARTS TAKING POTSHOTS AT *ME*, THEY DON'T *DESERVE* A WARNING.

THEY DESERVE A CHANCE TO BE MY SPARRING PARTNER. AND I GO THROUGH *LOTS* OF SPARRING PARTNERS.

I THINK I *RECOGNIZE* THESE GUYS NOW. THEY'RE THE WILD PACK... SILVER SABLE'S MEN.

BUT WHY WOULD SILVER BE INTERESTED IN LITTLE OLD ME? THERE MUST BE MONEY INVOLVED.

BUT WHO'S FOOTING THE *BILL*?

KEEP *SHOOTING!* ONE OF THE TRANQS WILL NAIL HIM *YET.*

TRANQUILIZERS INSTEAD OF BULLETS, LUCKY--

URKH!

--FOR *YOU* GUYS.

UNHH

THOSE IDIOTS! GET HIM, MEN!

AW, BOY.

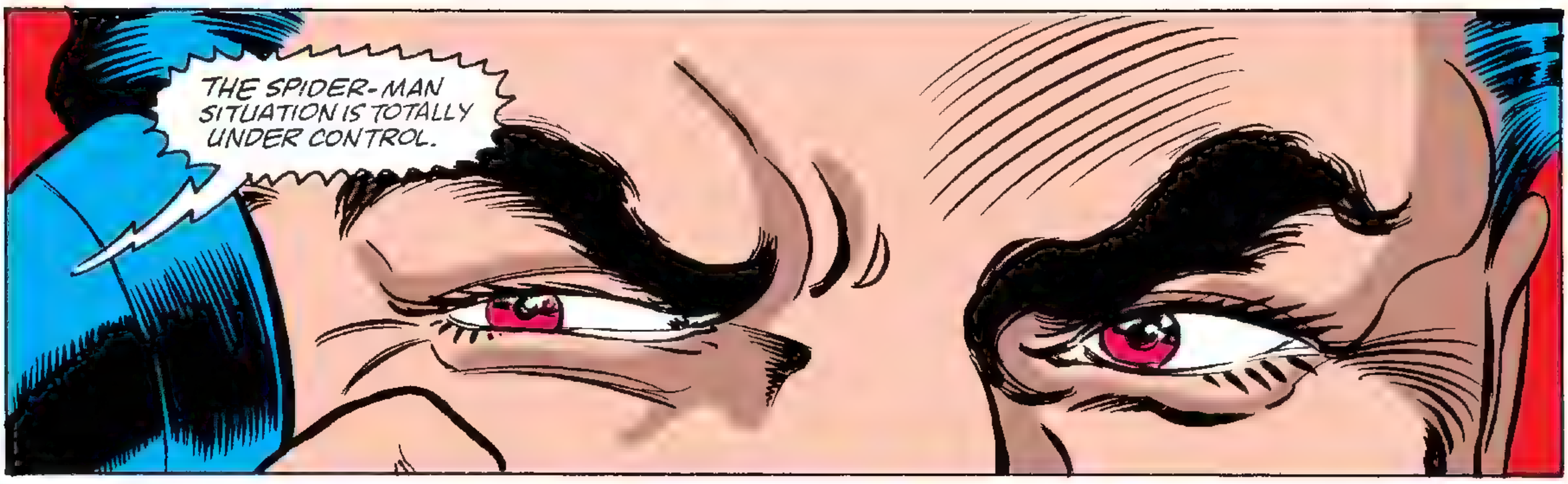
BUSY! WHO'S PETER TALKING TO, ANYWAY?

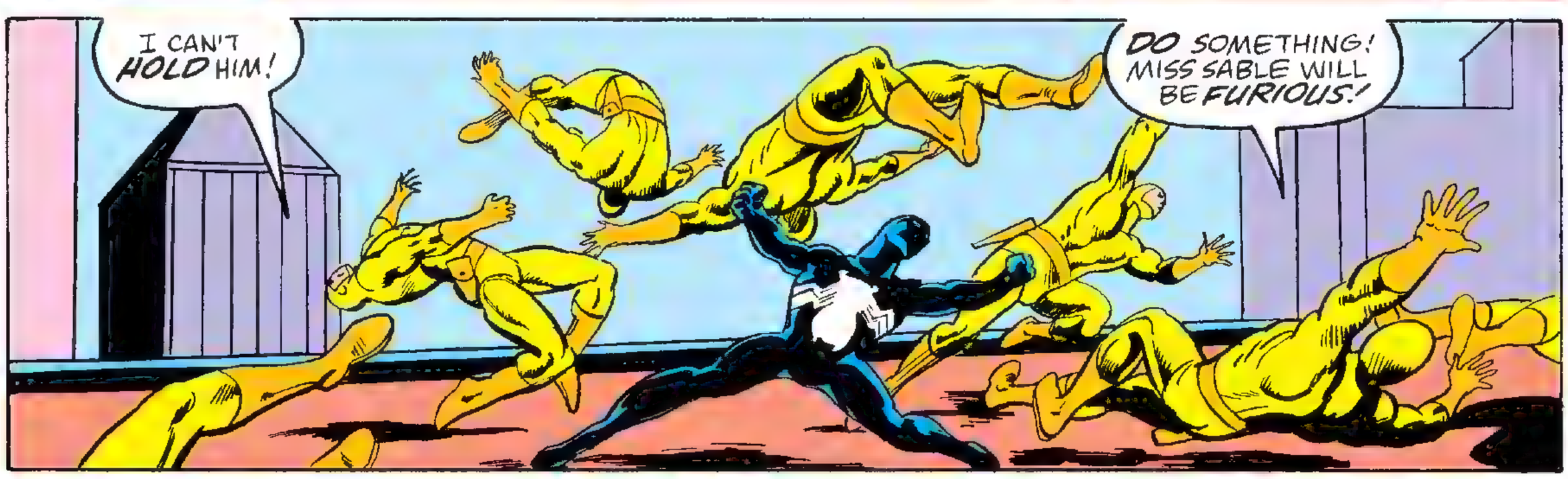
THINGS ARE GOING *PERFECTLY* ON THIS END, KEATING. HOW ABOUT *YOU*?

THE FRAME IS SOLID. NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PAINT THE PICTURE.

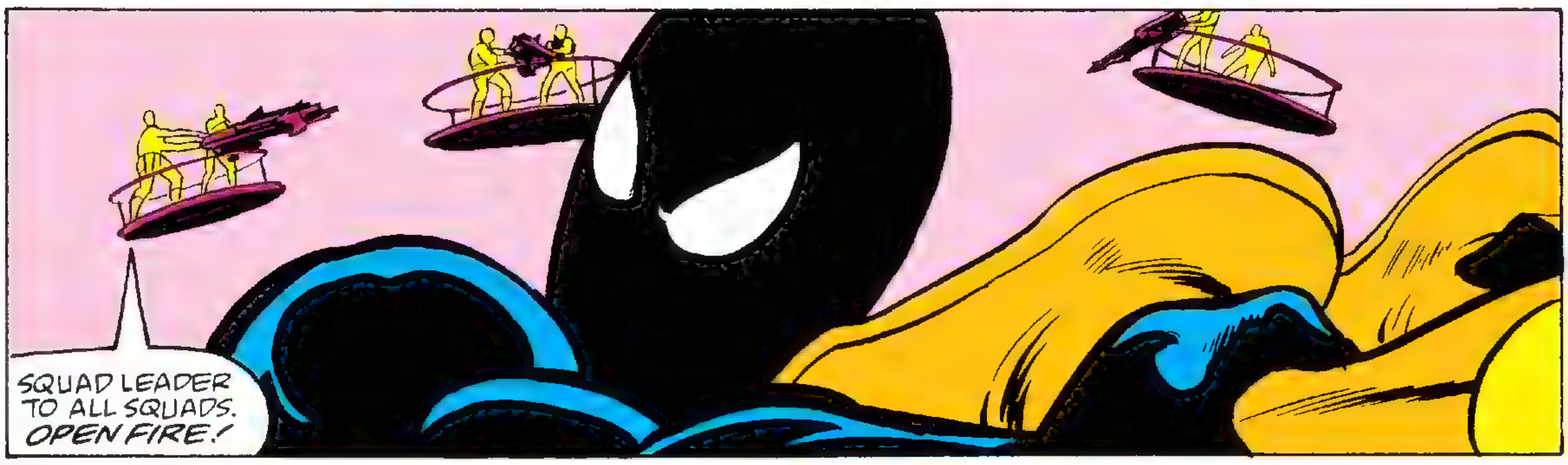
ARE YOU SURE SPIDER-MAN IS--

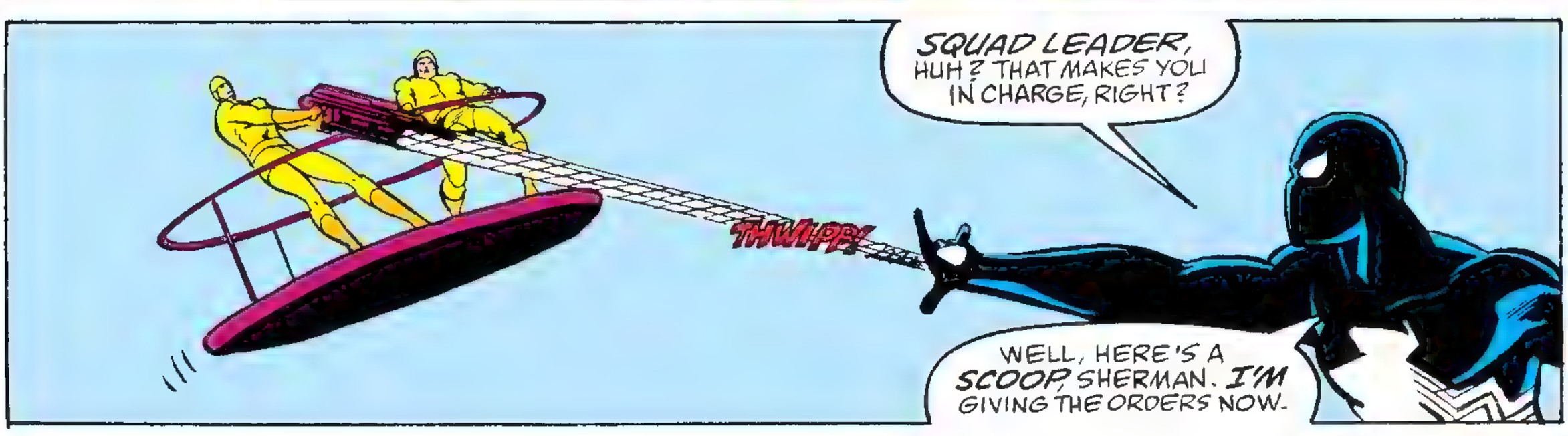
HEY, *TRUST* ME, KEATING...


THE SPIDER-MAN SITUATION IS TOTALLY UNDER CONTROL.


I CAN'T HOLD HIM!
DO SOMETHING! MISS SABLE WILL BE FURIOUS!

SABLE WILL BE FURIOUS? SHE'S THE LEAST OF YOUR PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW.
WHUP!


SQUAD LEADER TO ALL SQUADS. OPEN FIRE!


SQUAD LEADER, HUH? THAT MAKES YOU IN CHARGE, RIGHT?
THWIPP!
WELL, HERE'S A SCOOP, SHERMAN. I'M GIVING THE ORDERS NOW.

KRASH!

AND SPIDEY SAYS...

...THAT'S A WRAP!

NOW, THEN... WHICH ONE WAS THE SQUAD LEADER AGAIN?

OH, YES. NOW I WANT SOME ANSWERS RIGHT NOW--*WAIT A MINUTE!*

I--I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE THE *SHIELD* AGENT WHO BLEW AWAY THAT SCARED KID, ALEXANDER, A WHILE BACK!*

*SEE PETER PARKER #118.--JIM

THAT'S RIGHT, WALL-CRAWLER. BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I WAS FIRED FROM *SHIELD* BY NICK FURY, HIMSELF.

HE SAID I SHOULDN'T HAVE TERMINATED THAT KID--CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN AGENT, HE SAID. I WAS RUINED, THANKS TO THAT MUTANT BRAT AND YOU.

BUT *SILVER SABLE* HIRED ME... AND THEN SHE GAVE ME LEADERSHIP OF THIS JOB, BECAUSE SHE KNEW HOW MUCH I WANTED TO SEE YOUR HEAD ON A *PIKE*.

I ONLY HOPE SHE LETS ME HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO GIVE YOU EVERY-THING YOU *DESERVE*.

LET ME CORRECT AN ERRONEOUS *IMPRESSION* HERE. YOU SEEM TO BE OF THE OPINION THAT YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO MAKE *THREATS*.

LAST TIME I SAW YOU I WAS STILL IN SHOCK OVER YOUR BRUTAL MURDER OF ALEX.

THIS TIME, HOW-EVER, I'M MY OLD SELF AGAIN...

SHORTLY...

OH, MY ACHING POSTERIOR. THERE GOES OUR INCENTIVE BONUSES.

LOOK! OVER THERE... IT'S SQUAD LEADER. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

SPIDER-MAN HAPPENED, YOU *IDIOT!* HE STRIPPED OFF MY UNIFORM AND WEBBED ME UP!

GET THIS DISGUSTING STUFF OFF ME! *IMMEDIATELY!*

AND, TWO BLOCKS AWAY...

THAT EXTRA-STICKY WEBBING WILL ADHERE TO HIS SKIN REALLY WELL. OF COURSE, IT'LL WEAR OFF EVENTUALLY.

HOWEVER, I'M BETTING HE WON'T *WAIT* TO GET IT REMOVED.

YARRRGGH!

YEP. HE DIDN'T WAIT.

MINUTES LATER, BACK AT PETER'S APARTMENT...

WONDERFUL. FORTY DEGREES OUT AND THE GIRLS NEXT DOOR ARE WORKING ON THEIR TANS.

WELL, *LET* THEM SIT ON THE ROOF AND BLOCK THE WAY TO MY SKYLIGHT.

DID YOU SEE SOME SORT OF MOVEMENT IN THE ALLEY?

NO. GO BACK TO *SLEEP*, CANDI.

" NOW THAT I'VE GOT A CHANGE OF CLOTHING PERMANENTLY STASHED IN THIS ALLEY, I NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING STUCK IN MY SPIDEY SUIT AGAIN. "

WISH I COULD SOLVE *ALL* MY PROBLEMS SO EASILY. WHY IS SILVER SABLE ON MY CASE? AFTER THE TIMES WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER, YOU'D THINK I'D DESERVE BETTER TREATMENT.

PERHAPS I SHOULD PAY A CALL ON HER, EITHER OVER THE PHONE OR IN PERSON.

BROTHER, IF I WERE GOING THROUGH ALL THIS *ALONE*, I'D PROBABLY BE A BASKET CASE.

GOOD THING I HAVE *FELICIA* TO LEAN ON.

FELICIA'S VOICE... SHE'S HERE. BUT WHO'S SHE TALKING TO?

I TRIED CALLING YOU EARLIER AT YOUR NEW PLACE, BUT J.D. SAID YOU WERE OUT.

I DID GET THROUGH TO *KEATING*, THOUGH. HE SAYS THE FRAME IS IRON CLAD.

OF *COURSE* IT IS, PET. REMEMBER WHO *CONCEIVED* IT.

BY THE BY, JUST WHERE *ARE* YOU, ANYWAY? WHY DO YOU PERSIST IN BEING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT YOUR LOCATION? WHY DO YOU PROTECT *SPIDER-MAN'S* SECRET IDENTITY?

BECAUSE, FOREIGNER, IF I SPILL ALL THE BEANS I WON'T BE AS NECESSARY AS I AM NOW. DESPITE OUR... INTIMATE ASSOCIATIONS... I'M STILL A CAUTIOUS GIRL AT HEART.

I *THOUGHT* YOU'D UNDERSTAND. DON'T WORRY. SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING. HE'S PUTTY IN OUR HANDS.

HIS PROBLEM IS THE SAME AS *ALWAYS*...

...HE'S TOO TRUSTING.

NEXT: *FOREIGN* AFFAIRS!

MARVEL®

129
AUG
CC 02199

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH... THE FOREIGNER!

MILGROM

PETER PARKER THOUGHT HE KNEW WHAT THE SCORE WAS.

HE THOUGHT THE BLACK CAT, HIS NEWLY-ACQUIRED ROOM-MATE, CONFIDANTE, AND LOVER, WAS ON HIS SIDE.

HE THOUGHT THE MYSTERIOUS FOREIGNER, A MASTER-ASSASSIN WHO HAD JUST FRAMED HIM FOR MURDER, WAS AN ENEMY.

NOW HE'S JUST ARRIVED HOME TO HEAR THE CAT ON THE PHONE WITH THE FOREIGNER DISCUSSING HOW THEY SET PETER UP, AND HE REALIZES THAT NOT ONLY DOESN'T HE KNOW THE SCORE, HE DOESN'T KNOW THE GAME.

HIS THOUGHTS FLY BACK TO WHEN HE FIRST MET FELICIA HARDY, THE BLACK CAT. LIFE WAS SIMPLE THEN. SHE WAS A **THIEF**; HE TRIED TO CATCH HER.

THEN THINGS TURNED AROUND. SHE WENT STRAIGHT AND THEY BEGAN A TUMULTUOUS RELATIONSHIP THAT EVENTUALLY SELF-DESTRUCTED.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HOWEVER, FELICIA'S APARTMENT WAS FIRE-BOMBED BY A VILLAIN CALLED **THE BLAZE**. THIS TIME, THE CAT REQUESTED SPIDER-MAN'S AID, AND, ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FELICIA'S FRIEND, THE FOREIGNER, SPIDER-MAN AND FELICIA NAILED BLAZE.

SPIDER-MAN PUBLICLY THREATENED THE ARSONIST AND MURDERER. WHEN THE BLAZE WAS FOUND DEAD LATER IN HIS CELL, POLICE CAPTAIN CHRIS KEATING FINGERED SPIDER-MAN. NO ONE DOUBTED IT THAT HE DID IT.

BY THIS TIME, PETER AND FELICIA WERE BACK TOGETHER AND THE HOMELESS CAT HAD MOVED IN. AND WHEN PETER DISCOVERED THAT FELICIA'S "BUSINESSMAN FRIEND," THE FOREIGNER, WAS A DEADLY ASSASSIN, FELICIA EXPRESSED SHOCK AND DISMAY.

PETER SUSPECTED THAT FOREIGNER MURDERED BLAZE AND SET SPIDER-MAN UP. NOW, THOUGH, HE KNOWS HE WAS HALF-RIGHT. IT WAS A SET-UP, ALL RIGHT, BUT FELICIA WAS IN ON IT.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

HE RESOLVES THEN AND THERE TO PLAY ALONG. NOT LET HER REALIZE HE OVERHEARD. THINK AND PLAN, JUST AS THE **CAT** AND THE **FOREIGNER**. BE UNEMOTIONAL. BE CUNNING.

IT'S A LAUDIBLE AMBITION.

IT LASTS THREE SECONDS.

FELICIA!

WHOOPS. GOTTA **GO**, HONEY. COMPANY'S HERE.

RUNK

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PETER DAVID / WRITER | ALAN KUPPERBERG / ARTIST | RICK PARKER / LETTERER | JULIANNA FERRITER / COLORIST | JIM SALICRUP / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / EDITOR IN CHIEF

YOU SET ME UP, YOU LITTLE...

THWIPP

NOW, *NOW*, PETER. LET'S EXPLORE OUR OPTIONS--

OPTIONS?!

YES. YOU CAN EITHER WEB ME AND CALL ME *NAMES*--OR YOU CAN STOP THAT BOMB I JUST TOSSED IN YOUR DARK-ROOM FROM TRASHING YOUR CAMERA EQUIP-MENT.

POIT!

THWIPP!

NO! THAT STUFF COST ME A FORTUNE! I NEED IT FOR MY WORK, TAKING PIX FOR THE *DAILY BUGLE!*

THERE! GOT HERE IN TIME...

FOOOSH!

IT WAS JUST A *SMOKE* BOMB. SHE LIED *AGAIN!* SHE DOES NOTHING BUT *LIE!*

LOOK! THERE GOES THE BLACK CAT! WHERE'D *SHE* COME FROM?

GREAT! THE GIRLS WHO LIVE NEXT DOOR ARE AT THE EDGE OF THE ROOF. I GO OUT THE WINDOW, SO DOES MY *SECRET.*

HAVE TO GET OUT TO THE ALLEY-WAY, CHANGE TO SPIDEY *THERE.*

I CAN *STILL* GET HER, NOT ALL HER CAT-LIKE POWERS CAN MATCH MY *SPEED.*

I'LL CATCH HER IN A--

-- *FLASH?!*

FLASH THOMPSON? AW, *NO!*

GOOD TO SEE YOU, *TOO*, PETE.

I MEAN-- AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE *HOSPITAL?*

LET *MYSELF* OUT. PETE, WE HAVE TO GO HELP *BETTY.* SHE NEEDS US NOW THAT HER HUSBAND IS DEAD!

WOMEN... THEY CAN'T HANDLE... PRESSURE, PETE. NOT AS TOUGH AS US... GUYS..

UNNNNH!

I CAN'T LEAVE MY BEST FRIEND HERE IN THIS CONDITION SO I CAN CHASE AFTER THE CAT!

WHY ME?

DOWNTOWN, IN POLICE CAPTAIN KEATING'S OFFICE...

"WHY *ME?*" "THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE *THINKING*, ISN'T IT, TORK? WHY, OF ALL COPS, DID *YOU* GET STUCK WITH THE JOB OF BRINGING IN SPIDER-MAN, RIGHT...?

YEAH, CAPTAIN.

BECAUSE THIS SHOULD BE A *SNAP!* HE'S NOT EXACTLY *INCONSPICUOUS!* HQ WANTS THIS WRAPPED QUICKLY. SO DO *I.*

SO GET OFF YOUR BUTT, OR YOU'LL BE SITTING ON IT BACK IN PERSONNEL-- WHERE YOU *CAME* FROM.

I HATE WHEN HE'S RIGHT. I SHOULD BE BUSTING HUMP ON THIS SPIDER-MAN MURDER THING. BUT...SOMETHING STILL DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.

I HATE TO *ADMIT* IT, BUT WHEN STAN CARTER CAME AROUND HERE EARLIER, HE MAY HAVE HAD SOME VALID POINTS.

"AT FIRST, I COULDN'T BELIEVE HE HAD THE NERVE TO SAY-- "

IF YOU G-GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT, SP-SPIDER-MAN'S C-CLAIMED B-BEHAVIOR MAKES NO *SENSE.*

WHY, IF HE B-BROKE IN TO G-G-GET THE B-BLAZE, WOULD HE PUSH THE B-BARS OF THE WINDOW INWARD? EITHER HE'D B-BEND THEM SLIGHTLY TO SNEAK IN, OR ELSE PULL THEM *OUTWARD.* YET, THE WINDOW AND B-BARS WERE FOUND ON THE *INSIDE.*

AND WHY ATTACK WHILE K-KEATING WAS THERE AT *ALL?* WHY NOT WAIT TILL THERE WERE NO WITNESSES?

BECAUSE KEATING HAD THE KEY TO BLAZE'S CELL.

D-DON'T BE A FOOL! THIS MAN SUPPOSEDLY JUST PULLED OFF A WINDOW G-GRATING. YOU THINK HE NEEDS A K-K-KEY?

AND WHY D-DIDN'T B-BLAZE SOUND THE ALARM WHEN HE SAW WHAT WAS G-GOING DOWN?

LOOK, CARTER... THIS IS ***POINTLESS***. CHRIS KEATING, A 15-YEAR VETERAN WITH TWO MEDALS OF COMMENDATION, SWORE THAT SPIDER-MAN WAS THE PERP. WE ***HAVE*** TO CHECK HIM OUT.

I'D SAY YOUR T-TIME WOULD B-BE B-BETTER SP-SPENT...

...IF YOU CH-CHECKED OUT *K-KEATING.*

AT FIRST I DISMISSED WHAT HE SAID OUT OF HAND. BUT NOW--

WELL, JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE STUTTERS AND IS A HOMICIDAL MANIAC VISITING FROM THE LOONEY BIN DOESN'T MEAN HE'S NO LONGER A COMPETENT POLICE DETECTIVE.

HI, McNALLEY? IT'S TORK, YOUR OLD PAL FROM PERSONNEL. LOOK, GET ME CHRIS KEATING'S FILE.

MEANWHILE...

FLASH, THIS IS ***NUTS***. WE HAVE TO GET YOU BACK TO THE HOSPITAL.

YOU DIDN'T ***TALK*** TO HER, PETE. IT'S ***CREEPY***. SHE THINKS HER HUSBAND, NED, IS STILL ALIVE.

LOOK, FLASH... I AGREED TO COME ALONG TO TALK TO BETTY, BUT AFTER THIS, YOU'VE GOT TO GO ***BACK*** IN THE HOSPITAL UNTIL YOU'RE FULLY RECOVERED FROM THAT FIGHT WITH THE HOBGOBLIN.

ALL RIGHT, PETE!

WHY, PETER! FLASH! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE. COME ON IN.

THANKS, BETT.

SHE LOOKS OKAY TO ***ME***, FLASH.

NED'LL BE HOME JUST ABOUT ANY TIME NOW.

OKAY, FLASH, YOU WIN.. BUT WE'RE NOT DOCTORS. LET'S TAKE THIS ***REAL*** SLOW.

HEY, ***TRUST*** ME. I'LL BE SUBTLE.

BETTY, LOOK. YOU SHOULD KNOW SOMETHING. NED'S ***DEAD*** AND YOU'RE ACTING REAL ***WEIRD***.

SUBTLE AS A BRICK, FLASH.

SO WHO INVITED YOU?

YOU DID.

BETTY, DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?

WELL, OF COURSE, FLASH. YOU ALWAYS HAD THE STRANGEST SENSE OF HUMOR.

NED'LL TELL YOU HOW SILLY YOU'RE BEING. TONIGHT'S POT ROAST NIGHT AND HE NEVER MISSES THAT.

BETTY, SNAP OUT OF IT! NED'S NEVER COMING BACK. HE WENT TO GERMANY ON A STORY AND SOMEONE KILLED HIM.

HOW DO I GET THROUGH TO YOU? HE'S DEAD! SIX FEET UNDER! HE'S--

KRASH!

SHUT YOUR LYING MOUTH!!

WHAK!

GET OUT OF HERE, YOU PIG! NED'LL KILL YOU FOR THAT WHEN HE GETS HERE!

BETTY!

NED'LL SHOW YOU. NED WILL... HE'LL...

HE'S...

...HE'S DEAD!

OHHHH, FLASH. HE'S DEAD... AND... AND... I... I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE.

HELP ME, FLASH.

JEEZ.

FELICIA, MY PET. HOW VERY ***UNEXPECTED***. DO YOU LIKE MY HIDEAWAY?

YOU HUNG UP RATHER ***SUDDENLY***. CAN I TAKE IT MATTERS HAVE BECOME SOMEWHAT DIFFICLILT?

THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT WHAT'S THAT THERE?

STYROFOAM HEAD. GOOD FOR KEEPING THE SHAPE OF MASKS. ALSO, THEY DON'T TALK BACK.

NOW THEN, TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.

LATER, FOREIGNER. LATER.

HOW MUCH LATER?

HOW DO I KNOW, KID? KEATING'LL BE BACK WHEN HE'S BACK.

YOU WANNA HANG OUT TO TAKE HIS PICTURE FOR YOUR RAG... BE MY ***GUEST***. HERE'S A PRESS PASS.

THIS IS MY LAST SHOT. KEATING'S PINNED THE BLAME ON ME -- IF HE DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S TALKING TO SPIDEY, HE MIGHT SLIP.

SAY SOMETHING, ***ANYTHING***, I HOPE.

KEATING'S DESK? OVER THERE.

DON'T STEAL ANYTHING OR I'LL HAVE TO SHOOT YOU.

FUNNY GUY. HA HA.

YEP. KEATING'S NOT HERE, ALL RIGHT. SO I'LL WAIT... WHAT ***ELSE*** CAN I DO?

HMM... MAYBE THAT'S HIM CALLING IN...

...I'VE NOTHING TO LOSE.

RING!

TWELFTH PRECINCT. CHRIS KEATING'S LINE.
IS CHRIS KEATING AROUND?
NOT AT--
HOLY CROW! IT'S **FELICIA**. GOTTA MAKE MY VOICE LOWER, HOPE SHE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME.
NOT AT THE MOMENT. CAN HE GET **BACK** TO YOU?
TELL HIM TO MEET ME. 405 W. 45TH STREET. I'LL BE WAITING. IT'S IMPORTANT. ⟨CLIK⟩
GOOD LUCK. I HAD GOOD LUCK.
I ACTUALLY GOT A BREAK. I CAN DIE HAPPY. SHE NEVER SUSPECTED IT WAS ME.
FELICIA, MY LOVE?
COMING, LOVER.
SHORTLY, BACK AT PETER'S APARTMENT...
I TRUSTED HER AND SHE PLAYED ME FOR A SAP. PART OF ME CRINGES AT THE THOUGHT OF SEEING HER AGAIN.
PART OF ME WANTS TO RIP HER HAIR OUT BY ITS DARK ROOTS.
WEB-SHOOTER'S FULL. EVERYTHING'S **SET**.
SHE THOUGHT SHE'D GET AWAY WITH IT. THAT SHE'D MAKE A FOOL OF ME.
THIS TIME, THOUGH, I'LL GET HER. FOR ONCE, FOR **ONCE**, THE GOOD GUYS ARE GONNA **WIN**.

WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD FROM THAT BLASTED SILVER SABLE? DOESN'T SHE REALIZE TIME IS *MONEY?*

DAILY BUGLE

YOU'D THINK THE HALF-MILLION DOWN PAYMENT I GAVE HER WOULD BE AN INCENTIVE IN TRACKING DOWN SPIDER-MAN. THAT ROTTEN WALL-CRAWLER HAS TO BE NAILED FOR *GOOD.*

WOMEN! BAH. CAN'T LIVE WITH 'EM, CAN'T LIVE WITH 'EM!

PLAP!

DON'T LET ME DISTURB YOUR IMPORTANT PUBLISHER CHORES, MR. JAMESON. I'M SIMPLY RETURNING YOUR ADVANCE.

I SEE. DO I GET TO KNOW *WHY,* OR IS IT A STATE *SECRET?*

CERTAINLY. I HAVE SIMPLY HAD A CHANGE OF *HEART.* OH, I DON'T MIND USING THE RESOURCES OF SABLE INTERNATIONAL TO BRING SPIDER-MAN DOWN...

...BUT I'D SOONER DRINK SCOTCH WITH CRUSHED GLASS THAN ACT ON *YOUR* BEHALF.

YOU SEE, MR. JAMESON... JONAH YOU'RE NOT *WORTHY* TO SPONSOR SPIDER-MAN'S DOWNFALL.

GOOD DAY.

SABLE! WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S ONLY $425,000 HERE. WHERE'S THE DADBLAMED REST?

EXPENSES.

SO, MY DEAR, SHALL WE EAT ITALIAN OR FRENCH?

I NEED TO KNOW SO THAT MY PEOPLE CAN MAKE RESERVATIONS IN EITHER ROME OR PARIS FOR US.

SURPRISE ME.

I LOVE SURPRISES.

KRASH!

FELICIA! WERE YOU EXPECTING COMPANY?

AH. IT SEEMS NOT. NO MATTER-- GIVE US JUST A FEW MOMENTS TO TIDY UP THE FLAT...

...AND MAKE THE BED.

NOT BAD, FOREIGNER. YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOU LOOK, TOSSING A MATTRESS AROUND.

CAN YOU DO THIS, YOU CREEP?

RIIIP!

WHY WOULD I WANT TO?

HELLO, 911! SPIDER-MAN'S BROKEN IN. 405 W. 45TH.

HE'S TRYING TO KILL MY BOYFRIEND! HURRY!!

OH, DEAR. DUST BUNNIES. I'LL BE BACK IN A TIC.

OH, NO YOU DON'T FOREIGNER!

OH, NO YOU DON'T.

OH, YES HE DID. WHERE'D HE GO?

TRAP DOOR!

WELL, WHEREVER CAPTAIN BRITAIN GOES, I'M FOLLOWING.

SOME SORT OF PRIVATE GYM. AND THERE'S THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

I DON'T LIKE THIS. HE'S STANDING THERE TOO CALMLY.

THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES. LIKE HE'S NOT THE LEAST B--

--IT AFRAID OF ME.

WHAT IN THE--?

WHOA!

SPIDER-SENSE BARELY WARNED ME IN TIME. IF HE'D REALLY CONNECTED HE'D HAVE TAKEN MY HEAD OFF.

HOW DID YOU MOVE SO FAST, SWIFTY?

THAT WOULD BE TELLING.

YEAH? WELL, YOU MURDERER, YOU WON'T GET A SECOND CHA--

--ANCE.

WOMF!

IT'S... NOT POSSIBLE.

WUMP!

NO ONE'S THAT FAST.

HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH ME.

I'M DISAPPOINTED, MATE. FELICIA SAID YOU WERE FORMIDABLE.

LET HIM YACK IT UP. I NEED A CHANCE TO GET MY BEARINGS.

YEAH! WHAT ELSE DID SHE SAY ABOUT ME?

OH, SHE MADE OTHER COMPARISONS BETWEEN YOU AND I. YOU CAME UP A BIT SHORT, I'M AFRAID.

REMARKABLE MUSCLE, THE TRAPEZIUS. HIT JUST RIGHT, I CAN PARALYZE YOUR HEAD AND ARMS.

I SWEAR I WAS LOOKING RIGHT AT HIM, AND THE NEXT THING I KNOW, HE'S RIPPING ME OFF THE WALL!

IS HE A MUTANT TRANSPORTER LIKE NIGHT-CRAWLER? I'VE GOTTA FIGURE IT OUT FAST--

WUMP!

'CAUSE HE'S TAKING ME APART.

YOU LOOK A TAD *THIRSTY*, MY FRIEND.

GOTTA WATCH HIM. FIGURE OUT WHAT HE'S DO--

EXERCISE TIME! NO PAIN -- NO GAIN!

-- ING

HOLD IT--

THAT WALL CLOCK -- THE SECOND HAND JUMPED FORWARD BY TEN SECONDS. AS IF HE SKIPPED THROUGH TIME.

UNGH!

IS THAT *POSSIBLE?*

WHAT AM I *TALKING* ABOUT? *I* STICK TO *CEILINGS*, FOR PITY'S SAKE.

GOT HIM ON THE *ROPES*... EVEN KNOCKED OUT ONE OF HIS *TEETH*. SO WHY IS MY SPIDER-SENSE BUZZING SO--

POOM!

OH.

AN EXPLODING *TOOTH*? YOU MUST BE A PANIC DURING DENTAL HYGIENE WEEK.

ANYBODY NEED ANY HELP DOWN THERE?

NO!

POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
RHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

GODFREY! WHERE DO YOU THINK ALL THOSE POLICEMEN ARE OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY?
I WOULDN'T KNOW, MISS SABLE.

LET'S FIND OUT, SHALL WE?

NEVER BLOCK A WEB-SHOT, FORRY. YOU SHOULD DODGE IT-- UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'RE GETTING TIRED.

LET'S FIND OUT.
THIS IS IT. I'M NOT GOING TO SO MUCH AS BLI--

...INK
WHAT HAPPENED? MY REFLEXES GOT ALL GUMMED, LIKE MY MIND HAD GONE BLANK. AND WHERE IS--

FELICIA TELLS ME YOU CAN'T BREAK YOUR OWN WEBBING, SEEMS THAT'S THE CASE.

GOTTA-- PULL HIM OFF ME...

ARRGH!
HE--HE BIT ME!

LUNGS... SCREAM-ING FOR AIR. WHOLE BODY'S ON FIRE.

HE'S GOING TO KILL ME. LIKE HE DID NED, AND THE BLAZE, AND WHO KNOWS WHO ELSE?

NO! I WON'T BE ANOTHER NOTCH IN HIS BELT. GOTTA DO SOME-THING...

PICK HIM UP, THEN BACK-PEDAL. TRY TO SLAM HIM INTO A WALL OR...

A WINDOW. GREAT.

KRASH

GOTTA SHAKE HIM LOOSE, FAST. EVERYTHING'S GOING BLACK. CAN'T SEE. CAN'T...

SEE?

OF COURSE! THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!

WAK!

IT'S OVER, FOREIGNER! I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER NOW!

REALLY? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS IN THE PHONE BOOK.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT HERE. LURE HIM IN.

HERE HE COMES...

WHAM!

AND THERE HE GOES!

HYPNOSIS! THAT'S HOW YOU DID IT.

EVERY TIME WE MADE EYE CONTACT--

--YOU BLACKED ME OUT FOR A FEW SECONDS. LONG ENOUGH TO GET IN CLOSE AND CONNECT.

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS CLOSE MY EYES AND TRUST MY SPIDER-SENSE.

AND NOW I'LL.. WAIT! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING NUTS.

BETTER RISK OPENING MY EYES AND...

SPIDER-MAN! DON'T MOVE. YOU'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED.

POLICE

POLICE

POLICE

HEY, *TORK*. SPEAKING AS ONE OF THE TAXPAYERS WHO FOOTS THE BILL FOR YOUR SALARY, I'M *NOT* WILD ABOUT THIS TREATMENT.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN *SILENT*, SPIDER-MAN. I SUGGEST YOU *USE* IT.

OH, SPIIIIDER-MAN... WOULD YOU LIKE MY HELP *NOW*?

ARE YOU *NUTS*? FIRST YOU SAID YOU LOVE ME, THEN YOU DUMP ME AND SET ME UP--

YOU'RE THE *LAST* PERSON ON EARTH I'D WANT TO BE INDEBTED TO.

PERFECT.

TORK! FEAST YOUR EYES ON *THESE*! IN LIVING BLACK AND WHITE. NEGATIVES INCLUDED, SO YOU'LL KNOW THEY'RE LEGIT.

IT'S OKAY. IT WON'T EXPLODE. WOULD I LIE?

HOLY...

BACK *AWAY* FROM HIM, MEN. PUT AWAY YOUR WEAPONS.

EXCELLENT, TORK! YOU GOT THAT MURDER-ING--

I'M LETTING HIM *GO*, CAPTAIN.

HAVE YOU *LOST* YOUR ALLEGED *MIND*?!

HERE. LOOK AT THESE. AND THEN, IF YOU WANT TO RISK THE BAD P.R. FOR FALSELY ARRESTING SPIDER-MAN, GO RIGHT AHEAD--YOU ARREST HIM.

KEATING? OH, NO. *NO!*

UHM...

AH...

YOU'RE, UH, FREE TO *GO*. NO HARD FEELINGS, HUH?

DREAM *ON*, CREEP.

SURE, FINE CAPTAIN. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO SEARCH A CERTAIN *HOUSE* FOR A CERTAIN *WOMAN*.

FOREIGNER SEEMS TO HAVE HIGH-TAILED IT. BUT MAYBE FELICIA'S STILL IN THERE.

BUT...

SEARCHED THE WHOLE PLACE, AND NOTHING. RATS. WELL, I'M HEADING *HOME*.

AND REMEMBER, I WANT KEATING'S HEAD ON A *PLATTER*.

I'LL SHARPEN MY AXE.

SHORTLY...

I MAY HAVE HAD MORE CONFUSING DAYS IN MY LIFE, BUT I SURE CAN'T *THINK* OF ANY.

UH-OH. SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING. SOMEONE'S IN THE APARTMENT.

DOESN'T *FEEL* LIKE A *THREAT*, THOUGH. WHICH MEANS IT'S PROBABLY MARY JANE.

PETER, YOU'RE *FINALLY* OUT OF THE BATHROOM. I SWEAR, YOU SPEND *HOURS* IN THERE!

I NOTICED YOUR DOOR IS BUSTED. SO I CALLED A LOCKSMITH FOR YOU. *OKAY,* TIGER?

OH. THANKS, MARY JANE.

SHE'S GETTING *GOOD* AT COVERING FOR ME. NOW THIS GUY WON'T WONDER HOW I GOT IN WITHOUT USING THE DOOR.

AND, WHEN THE LOCKSMITH HAS GONE...

SO. WHERE'S FELICITY?

FELICIA'S GONE. FOR GOOD.

OH. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH THE *WRINGER.*

I FOUGHT THE FOREIGNER. IN HIS PAJAMAS.

HOW DID YOU GET IN THE FOREIGNER'S PAJAMAS?

'SCUSE ME. GOT A MESSAGE FOR PETER PARKER. THAT YOU?

DO I *LOOK* LIKE A PETER PARKER?

NEVER SAW ONE BEFORE, SO MAYBE YOU DO. HERE. HAVE A NICE DAY.

EVERYBODY'S A COMEDIAN. HERE, SWIFTY. MESSENGER DROPPED THIS OFF.

IT'S PROBABLY PUBLISHERS' CLEARING HOUSE TO TELL ME I OWE THEM A MILLION DOLLARS.

"DEAREST PETER. BY THIS TIME IT SHOULD BE ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTING, BUT I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND. I PLAYED YOU FOR A SUCKER. BUT DON'T FEEL BAD. I PLAYED THE FOREIGNER FOR A SUCKER, TOO, WORKING THE TWO OF YOU AGAINST EACH OTHER.

"YOU SEE, A WHILE BACK, YOU TREATED ME REALLY BADLY, AND I *HATED* YOUR GUTS. THEN YOU TURNED AROUND AND SAVED ME FROM SABRETOOTH WHEN I DIDN'T *WANT* YOUR HELP. I HATED THE THOUGHT THAT I WAS INDEBTED TO YOU, AND I *SWORE* I'D GET EVEN.

"THEN THE FOREIGNER HAPPENED ALONG, WITH A PLAN TO FRAME YOU FOR MURDER AND EVENTUALLY LEAVE YOU WITH NOWHERE TO TURN BUT ***HIS*** ORGANIZATION FOR PROTECTION. I SAW THE ***PERFECT*** CHANCE TO ACHIEVE MY ENDS AND HAVE ***FUN*** AT THE SAME TIME.

"WHEN KEATING, WHO I SUPPOSE IS AN AGENT OF FOREIGNER'S, MURDERED BLAZE, HE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS OUTSIDE THE WINDOW ***PHOTOGRAPHING*** IT-- PHOTOS THAT BY NOW I WILL HAVE TURNED OVER TO THE ***COPS***.

"I ***LET*** YOU LISTEN IN TO MY PHONE CALL WITH THE FOREIGNER. JUST AS I KNEW MY 'SLIP' ABOUT KEATING WOULD LEAD YOU TO POLICE HQ SO I COULD CALL YOU AND LET YOU KNOW WHERE I WAS. YOU HATE ME NOW, JUST AS ***I*** HATED ***YOU*** BEFORE. AND YOU WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT HELP FROM ME, JUST AS I WAS FROM YOU. SO NOW WE'RE ***EVEN***.

"EXCEPT WE'RE ***NOT***. BECAUSE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, WHILE MY PLAN CALLED FOR MY TRICKING YOU TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME, ***I*** FELL BACK IN LOVE WITH ***YOU***. SO MY WHOLE PLAN DOESN'T FEEL AS GOOD AS IT ***SHOULD***. THAT'S THE ***BREAKS***, I GUESS.

"I'M CERTAIN THAT THE FOREIGNER WILL WANT ME KILLED, SO I'M GOING ON A LITTLE GETAWAY VACATION FOR AWHILE. SOMEWHERE REMOTE WHERE I CAN ADMIRE THE SCENERY.

"WE'VE HAD FUN, PETE. AT LEAST ***I*** HAVE. ENCLOSED IS A PHOTO OF ME TO WARM YOUR NIGHTS. I GUESS ALL THOSE PHOTOS I TOOK OF YOU IN ACTION FOR THE *BUGLE* GAVE ME LOTS OF ***PRACTICE***.

"AND IF THERE'S ***ONE*** THING I BELIEVE IN, IT'S KEEPING IN PRACTICE.

"BY THE WAY, DON'T SHOW THIS PICTURE TO YOUR RED-HEADED FRIEND, MYRA-JEANNE. UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU WANT TO DRIVE HER MAD WITH JEALOUSY. ALL MY LOVE, FELICIA."

CUTE PICTURE. SHE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY ***CHILLY*** POSING FOR IT.

MJ, I'D KIND OF LIKE TO BE ALONE FOR AWHILE. OKAY?

Dearest Peter,
By this time
all over but the
But I want you
I played you for
sucker. But don't
bad. I played the
signer for a sucke
orking the two of
inst each other.
you see, a whi
treated m

I MUST BE *NUTS!*

MARY JANE! *HOLD* IT!

THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT. EVERYTIME YOU GO TO PIECES, LITTLE *MARY JANE'S* SUPPOSED TO PATCH YOU BACK TOGETHER.

LUCKILY FOR YOU, I *ALWAYS* CARRY A BOTTLE OF EL-MER'S GLUE WITH ME FOR JUST SUCH OCCASIONS.

NOW... LET'S DISCUSS *JUST* HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT FELICIA HARDY.

FELICIA *WHO?*

FELICIA HARDY. THAT'S A NAME I'M SURE YOU WON'T EVER FORGET.

WHAT CAN I *SAY?* AS YOU KNOW *YOURSELF*, I WAS ALWAYS A SUCKER FOR WOMEN WITH SILVER/BLONDE HAIR... SILVER.

THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR WAS AS MUCH TO TEST FELICIA'S ***LOYALTY*** AS TO GET SPIDER-MAN. A SHAME SHE FAILED SO UTTERLY. I'LL HAVE TO ***KILL*** HER, I SUPPOSE... WHEN I GET AROUND TO IT.

WHAT I ***MOST*** REGRET IS LOSING KEATING.

CHRIS KEATING? WHAT WAS HE TO ***YOU?***

HE WAS QUITE VALUABLE. WHEN I FIRST MET HIM SEVERAL YEARS AGO HE WAS ***WELL PLACED*** IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. BUT HE HAD ***NO*** FAMILY, NO ONE ***CLOSE*** TO HIM. HE WAS PERFECT.

SO NATURALLY, NO ONE ***NOTICED*** WHEN I KILLED HIM.

SINCE THEN THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ***TWO DOZEN*** MEN IMPERSONATING HIM AT ONE TIME OR OTHER. IT WAS A SORT OF A TRAINING ASSIGNMENT FOR NEW RECRUITS INTO MY DISGUISE CORP.

BLENDING IN WITH THE POLICE WHILE DOING WHATEVER NAUGHTY BITS THEY CONCOCTED ON THE SIDE.

OF COURSE I HANDLED ***BLAZE'S*** KILLING, MYSELF. WOULDN'T TRUST THAT TO UNDERLINGS. AH, WELL...

REST IN ***PEACE***, CHRIS KEATING.

BY THE ***BY***, SILVER... IT WAS KIND OF YOU TO PUT ASIDE OUR ***DEATH FEUD*** LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE ME A RIDE TO THIS OTHER ***HIDEAWAY*** OF MINE.

WHAT CAN I ***SAY? I'VE*** GOT A WEAKNESS FOR DESPERATE MEN.

HERE. A TOAST TO THE DEAR, DEPARTED CHRIS KEATING.

IN A MOMENT, SILVER.

MY ***DEAR*** EX-HUSBAND! ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T ***TRUST*** ME...?

TRUSTING WOMEN HAS BEEN MY OCCASIONAL DOWNFALL, MY ***CHARMING*** EX-WIFE. STILL...

THERE'S ***ALWAYS*** ROOM FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT, EH? ***CHEERS.***

ART BY GREG AND TIM HILDEBRANDT

ART BY JULIE BELL

ART BY JOE JUSKO

HE'S A WALL-CRAWLING WONDER; SHE'S A MERVCENARY MARVEL!

Together, they...well, get on each other's nerves, mostly — but they make a great team, as long as they're not matching blows and ideologies themselves! See their lives intertwine both in shared adventures and apart, as Spidey faces the ability and ego of Silver's ex, the Foreigner, while Silver herself squares off against that hot-headed Hobgoblin-to-be, Jack O'Lantern! Plus: the gathering of the Sinister Syndicate and the reformation of Sandman! Guest-starring Daredevil and the Black Cat!

Collects *Amazing Spider-Man #265* and *#279-281*, and *Peter Parker, the Spectacular Spider-Man #128-129* – written by Tom DeFalco and Peter David; and illustrated by Ron Frenz, Brett Breeding, Alan Kupperberg and Rick Leonardi.

T+ MARVEL

ZONE